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Arad stampede claims third victim

NA'AMA Al-Kariv, 15, of Rishon LeZion, who was critically injured in the spectator's crush at the Arad Festival last Tuesday night, died early yesterday of her injuries at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

Two other youths were killed in the crush and more than 150 injured.

Al-Kariv, who had been brought to the hospital unconscious with a skull fracture, cerebral hemorrhaging and serious bruises, never regained consciousness.

Two other girls who had been seriously injured are progressing well and are now listed in good condition, doctors at Soroka said.

Doctors declared Al-Kariv clinically dead last Thursday, but her parents, Emanuel and Orli, refused to give up.

They visited leading rabbis for blessings and asked friends and other family members to visit and talk to her in the hopes she would hear them and regain consciousness.

She died, however, at 4 a.m. yesterday, with her parents at her bedside. She was buried yesterday afternoon in the Rishon LeZion cemetery. Her funeral was attended by hundreds of people.

At the funeral, Emanuel Al-Kariv said his daughter was murdered, and the murder was the result of criminal negligence by "amateurs in whose hands our children were entrusted."

Earlier, on the Israel Radio program "It's All Talk," Al-Kariv expressed his bitterness at the way the festival was organized.

"I don't know how we parents are such fools that we rely on people who are not serious to worry about our children," Al-Kariv said, his voice breaking.

"I met with the commander of the Neguv District police, Dep. Cmdr. Yossi Avni, while Na'ama was fighting for her life," he said. "I saw a low type of person who gave me ridiculous explanations..."

"My daughter had tickets [for the concert at which the tragedy occurred]. She thought she was going someplace safe. That she was pushed and trampled to death, I still can't absorb the great tragedy, the great blunder. What happened there, should never happen again..."

"Na'ama was apparently too polite, and because of that she was pushed and trampled by dozens or maybe hundreds of people. She was gentle and special, in a way that just can't be described. I am a teacher. I teach kids her age, and she was something special..."

"Na'ama was a girl who promised a good and secure future for the State of Israel. These are not wild kids. That's bullshit. There was an enormous failure [in Arad]," Al-Kariv said. (Itm)

Indurain wins Tour de France

LIJMOGES (AP) — Miguel Indurain won the Tour de France for a record fifth consecutive time yesterday, finishing the 20th and final stage with a lead of 4 minutes, 35 seconds over his nearest rival.

The Spaniard finished in the pack on the Champs Elysees on a bright sunny day that emphasized the yellow jersey he has worn since July 9, when he won the 8th stage individual time trial.

Alex Zülle of Switzerland was second and Bjarne Riis of Denmark third.

Belgian Eddy Merckx, Frenchman Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault have also won five Tours but Indurain was the first who did it in consecutive years.

Yesterday's 155km stage was a largely ceremonial ride from St. Genevieve des Bois to Paris, ending on the Champs Elysees.

Full story, Page 10



An FA-18 Hornet lands yesterday on the deck of the American aircraft carrier USS Roosevelt. The carrier is on station in the Adriatic awaiting orders for possible air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs. (Reuters)

Rapid Reaction Force sent to Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — UN commanders ordered in artillery units from a Rapid Reaction Force yesterday to bolster their mission in Sarajevo after Serb forces killed two French peacekeepers.

"Artillery elements of the multinational brigade have been ordered to deploy to reinforce Sarajevo," said UN spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Vernon. "Their mission is to respond to attacks against Sarajevo."

The units, including British troops already based in central Bosnia, were expected to arrive late last night, most likely by taking the treacherous route over Mount Igman which is in the sights of Serb gunners.

Serb forces blasted a UN food convoy and a UN base overnight, killing two French soldiers and wounding three.

UN Lt.-Col. Gerard Dubois said the French and Danish peacekeepers had been "deliberately attacked by fire of multiple-barreled rocket launcher, mor-

ters, and tanks from the Bosnian Serb side."

UN guns fired back at Serb positions around Sarajevo with dozens of rounds and peacekeeping commanders warned Serb leaders that other, more important, targets would be hit if their shelling did not stop. The Serbs ceased fire at about 1 a.m. yesterday.

French President Jacques Chirac said his troops would not cave in to Serb military pressure in Bosnia and would strike back if attacked in Sarajevo.

"The Serbs had better understand that we won't give in," Chirac said during a visit to Senegal. "I want to say right away that the instructions given are to reinforce our positions around Sarajevo with the Rapid Reaction Force and shoot back systematically, as we did last night against a Serb barracks, at Serb targets if we are attacked again," Chirac said.

Meanwhile, two planes, one from Israel and one from Jordan,

are scheduled to take off tomorrow for Bosnia with emergency equipment and aid to distribute to war victims. The two planes are to fly together and the Red Cross will assist in distribution of the aid to the needy.

The operation is an initiative of Jordan's King Hussein, who developed the idea during a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The defiant Bosnian Serbs have stepped up their attacks on Sarajevo and other UN "safe areas" despite warnings from Western governments on Friday that further aggression against Muslim enclaves would be met with a decisive military response.

At a crisis meeting of 16 nations in London, Britain, France, and the United States threatened military action, including NATO air strikes, if the Serbs attacked "safe areas."

Chirac said Western military chiefs planned to inform the Bosnian Serbs on Sunday of the results of the London meeting.

"This very afternoon, senior American, British and French officers are going to advise the Bosnian Serbs about the decisions taken by the London conference," he said.

The meeting of major powers was convened to try to shore up the UN mission, badly shaken by the fall of Srebrenica on July 11. Serb forces expelled 30,000 Muslims after conquering Srebrenica, one of six supposed "safe areas" for besieged Muslims declared by the UN in 1993.

UN officers reported heavy fighting across Bosnia on yesterday. The Bosnian Serbs renewed their assault on the eastern "safe area" of Zepa and shelling erupted in the northwest Bihać area, where Croatian Serbs were pressing ahead with an offensive.

Croatia on Saturday agreed to a plea from the Bosnian government for urgent military assistance to help it defend the Bihać enclave against joint attacks from separatist Serbs from both countries.

Rabin rejects Levine's Tze'elim-2 explanations

ALON PINKAS

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine emerged bitter from a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday after Rabin refused to accept his explanation on quotes attributed to him regarding the Tze'elim-2 training accident, an aide close to Levine said.

Levine told Rabin during the 20-minute meeting that portions of what he said to the families of the soldiers killed in the accident were taped without his knowledge and were taken out of context.

Levine had phoned the Prime Minister's Office over the weekend and asked for an urgent meeting to explain the circumstances under which he visited the victims' families and the context of the quotes attributed to him in Friday's Yediot Aharanot and on Channel 2 on Saturday.

In the reports, Levine indirectly involves Rabin in the affair by disclosing details of their discussions during the investigations.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and Maj.-Gen. Danny Ya-

tom, the prime minister's military secretary, also attended the meeting.

A Levine aide and a Rabin aide later said neither one would discuss the details.

But both confirmed that Rabin was not impressed by Levine's explanations and made it clear he expects restraint and responsibility from a major-general, regardless of where and to whom he speaks.

One minister, on his way to Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting, met Levine in the hallway and, after asking how he felt following the meeting, got the reply from Levine: "Lousy."

"People who talk are at some point in time accountable for what they say and should expect that," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said.

In a Friday follow-up story on the paper's investigation of Tze'elim-2, Yediot Aharanot quoted Levine as telling "a group of people with concern and interest in the Tze'elim-2 affair" that tapes of pre-exercise briefings

held at the Chief of the General Staff's Office were missing and were never submitted to the Eiman investigation committee.

Levine, a brigadier-general at the time of the mishap, is quoted as telling the group — most probably the families and lawyers of the five soldiers killed — that the exercise file was shredded.

Levine is quoted as telling then chief of the general staff Ehud Barak that he would not tolerate lies and deceit, and he will make him [Barak] pay unless he tells the truth.

"Ehud made all his initial mistakes out of cowardice," Levine is quoted as saying. "He gambled that I would resign."

He told the group of people that Barak gave contradicting testimonies to the Eiman and Military Police committees. Barak has vehemently denied these allegations.

Levine is also quoted as accusing Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy, then the chief of intelligence, (who was responsible for the Sayeret Matkal elite unit that conducted the exercise) of coordinating testimonies with other officers.

Argentina: We won't sell reactor to Syria

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ARGENTINA will defer plans to give Syria a small nuclear reactor since in the absence of a peace treaty with Damascus, Israel believes the move would jeopardize its security, Argentinean Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella reportedly told Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday.

After their meeting, Di Tella confirmed this to reporters. "Not only [do] we have to judge that it is not interfering with the process or with security, but both Israel and Syria [must] believe the same. If you think this puts in jeopardy your security, the project is out," he said.

He stressed that Buenos Aires would react the same way should Damascus object to comparable Argentinian-Israeli cooperation.

There has also been concern in Argentina that such a sale to Syria would arouse US opposition.

Argentina has insisted that the reactor was not meant for military purposes but to produce radioisotopes for medical uses. Argentinian Foreign Ministry sources told Reuters last week that under Argentinian law no sale of nuclear materials to Syria would be possible before it signed a special nuclear cooperation treaty with Argentina.

The Argentinian newspaper La Nacion reported over the weekend that a Syrian technical mission is to arrive in Argentina at the end of August for meetings related to a possible purchase of nuclear material. But Argentina will make no sale before the signing of a peace treaty between Syria and Israel, the paper quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Fernan-

do Petrella as saying. Israel has expressed concern about the issue since talks began between Argentina and Syria during a 1994 state visit to Damascus by President Carlos Menem.

"Argentina and Syria have had talks on the exchange of scientific material, not excluding nuclear technology and equipment," Petrella told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"But the sale of nuclear equipment requires a previous agreement on its use for strictly peaceful purposes," Petrella said.

"And Argentina has never failed to consult with Israel on this matter. Argentina will never do anything which might affect political stability" in the Middle East, he said.

A decree on "sensitive exports" signed by President Carlos Menem in 1992 states that the sale of nuclear equipment is subject to approval by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Argentinian officials also made clear yesterday that they expect the extradition from neighboring Paraguay of seven Lebanese men and a Brazilian woman wanted for questioning in connection with the bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires last year.

No culprits have been found either for a bomb attack on the Israeli Embassy in 1992, which killed 29 people.

Today Di Tella is scheduled to meet with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu.

He will tour the Knesset, lunch with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, and attend a dinner hosted by Peres.

Police appealing for witnesses to fatal accident near Golani junction

DAVID RUDGE and Itm

POLICE are seeking witnesses to a fatal road accident that occurred early yesterday near the entrance to Turan village on the main road leading from Nazareth to the Golani Junction.

Salah Adawai, 38, a resident of Turan, was killed, and three other people injured, two of them seriously, in the crash between a car and a pickup truck.

According to police, the driver of the pickup, whose license was suspended for previous traffic offenses, lost control of the vehicle, apparently due to speeding, and crashed into the car.

In another fatal accident yes-

terday, Yisrael Reisman, 49, of Kfar Sava, was killed and two people were moderately injured when his car crashed head-on into a tour bus near the settlement of Na'ama in the Jordan Valley.

The car driver became trapped in his car, which caught fire, killing him within minutes. Two passengers on the bus were injured.

A girl was killed last night near the village of Arara in the Wadi Ara region, when a car coming out of the village suddenly swerved out of its lane and up onto a traffic island on which she was standing. The driver was arrested.

Expert: Allowing PA police near Green Line will harm chances for keeping key areas in Israel

DAVID MAKOVSKY

A STRATEGIC analyst who has formulated a well-known map on the shape of ultimate Israeli-Palestinian territorial compromise, believes the prospects of such an outcome might be undermined by the government's apparent decision to allow Palestinian policemen in villages near the Green Line.

Joseph Alpher, the former director of the Tel Aviv University Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, drew up a map last year that would have Israel ultimately annex 11 percent of the territories, where 70 percent of the settlers reside.

But Alpher, a longtime supporter of the peace process, said he now fears that giving villages autonomy — a decision apparently adopted by the Rabin government — "works against Israel's long-term strategic interest with regard to the West Bank."

As The Jerusalem Post report-

ed yesterday, Israel is planning to allow Palestinian civilian ("blue") police into each of the 460 Arab villages in the territories to help supervise administrative autonomy in each hamlet.

Under the plan, the Palestinians could not bring "green" paramilitary police into these villages. Israel would retain "overriding security authority" over all the villages and intercity roads at least until mid-1997.

A move to deploy Palestinian police in all villages would completely contravene a promise by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to the Labor Knesset faction meeting a few weeks ago that Palestinian police would not be deployed in villages just outside Jerusalem, along the Green

Line and in the Jordan Valley.

Alpher, currently Israel-Middle East director of the American Jewish Committee, said the approach taken by the government "reflects an apparent lack of political will to present a strategic vision on final-status lines which inevitably attach some settlements to Israel but would necessitate the abandoning of others."

Talks on the final disposition of territory begin next May and are slated to conclude no later than May 1999.

"The solution adopted leaves all the settlements in place, but at the same time installs extensive autonomy in areas with a large Jewish majority, for example, the Ariel bloc or Gush Etzion," Alpher said. "These areas have been generally understood to be destined for

annexation to Israel in final status. This may be politically convenient for now, but renders it extremely difficult in final-status negotiations to draw new lines on the map."

Echoing an appeal made by former chief of staff Dan Shimon, Alpher said "it would appear to be preferable for a government to formulate its conception of final status now, and then work backward by saying which parts of the West Bank are given any autonomy and which ones are not."

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret has also come out for a plan that avoids giving Palestinians significant autonomy near the Green Line.

Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators moved their secluded negotiations yesterday from Zichron Ya'acov to the Lot Hotel on the Dead Sea.

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Israel, PLO won't meet deadline

TOMORROW'S deadline for an interim accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule will not be met, as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are set to haggle for another week over where to station troops, how to distribute water, and how to conduct Palestinian elections.

After a week of seclusion in Zichron Ya'acov, the negotiating teams moved the talks to the Lot Hotel at Ein Bokek yesterday.

The talks were reportedly moved to be closer to Palestinian negotiators coming from Gaza and to get away from Israeli protesters. The Lot Hotel has been emptied of guests until Saturday night. Police, soldiers, and Palestinian and Israeli security officers prevent anyone not involved with the talks from entering. Local and

foreign journalists have gathered outside, opposite the hotel's parking lot, for word on developments.

"We will stay at the Dead Sea resort at least a week. We have passed the deadline. We will try our utmost to bridge the gaps," chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Qreia told Reuters.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin are likely to meet, perhaps in Cairo, to resolve the toughest issues. But a date has yet to be fixed for such a summit.

Qreia said they might yet conclude the agreement "around the deadline." The US had hoped to host a signing ceremony by month's end.

News agencies

"Ninety percent of the problems are already behind us," Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry director-general and chief negotiator, told Israel Radio.

"There are a few isolated problems and the three of them are among those we are dealing with."

He cited the redeployment of IDF soldiers in some areas, the handover of water and other concerns, and the size of an elected Palestinian council and the nature of elections in eastern Jerusalem.

Asked whether the redeployment problems concerned Hebron and Bethlehem, Savir said: "More difficult problems have been solved to date. I am convinced these too will be resolved."

Water is one of the toughest issues to be resolved. Israel wants to ensure that Palestinians don't overdraw in the area of the Yarkon-Taninim aquifer, near the Kalkilya and Tulkarm areas, or in the Jenin area, near the Gilboa aquifer.

Israel is estimated to pump five times more water from the aquifers in the territories than the Palestinians pump.

Palestinians want Arabs in eastern Jerusalem to be able to vote there and to stand for office. Israel insists eastern Jerusalem candidates must have second addresses. It is also opposed to having polling stations in the city.

Savir said that security overall "for the most part remains in our hands" while civilian life "for the most part remains in the hands of the Palestinians."

Third Way presents its peace deal with Palestinians

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

SOME 9,000 settlers will have to decide whether to move to territories annexed to Israel, or stay in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, according to the permanent settlement proposal by the Third Way movement yesterday.

Third Way leaders called on the government to stop the negotiations over the interim settlement with the Palestinians and proceed immediately to the permanent settlement.

Presenting the movement's draft for the permanent settlement at a Tel Aviv press conference, Third Way leaders MK Avigdor Kahalani, Yehuda Harel, Lt.-Gen. (res.) Dan Shomron, Alex Lobotzky and others said the government has no permanent plan and no red lines in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

"The Palestinians have a definite permanent program for a Palestinian state from the Jordan River to the 1949 truce borders and all their demands derive from that, including water rights, state lands etc. We, on the other hand, have no such plan," Shomron said. "The negotiations are a series of one concession after the other to the Palestinians' demands. There is danger that the concessions will turn into irreversible facts when we reach the stage of the permanent settlement talks."

The Third Way's proposal is based, among other principles, on security, the integrity of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the separation of Israeli and Palestinian populations as much as possible. Kahalani stressed that the plan is in keeping with Labor's platform and can

bridge the differences between the right and left.

The map of territorial compromise proposed by the movement will require some 9,000 settlers—some 7% of the Jewish population—in Judea and Samaria—to move to the Israeli side, or stay under Palestinian sovereignty.

Lobotzky, a settler from Efrat, said the movement denounces unequivocally the right-wing rabbis' ruling that soldiers must disobey orders to vacate Jewish settlements. "The ruling is obviously political and can result in grave consequences. It must be completely condemned," he said.

Kahalani said the Third Way "does not negate a Palestinian state. The question is, how one defines a state. If the Palestinian area is demilitarized it doesn't bother us."

He said Labor's Knesset faction had given him and MKs Ya'acov Sheffi and Emanuel Zissman freedom of the vote on reinforcing the Golan Law, due to be raised in the Knesset Wednesday, unless the vote is declared by the opposition a no-confidence motion. He estimated that the bill would be approved by a large majority.

Kahalani said that if he is expelled from Labor after voting against it on the Golan Law, and if the Third Way does not merge its party to the Knesset elections, he would retire from political life. He noted that if the government accepts the Third Way's plan, he would support it and remain a member of the Labor Party.

'Hebron Jews will defend themselves if IDF leaves'

HERB KEINON

HEBRON'S Jews will organize guard units and defend themselves if the IDF decides to withdraw from the city, Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnon said yesterday.

"We will organize groups of Jewish guards," Arnon said, commenting on proposals for the IDF to redeploy in Hebron around the six enclaves there. "We will not leave here."

The government reportedly proposed to Palestinian negotiators that IDF soldiers will withdraw from most of the city to areas where it can defend the Jewish enclaves.

Arnon said he was surprised by the proposal, and the official government and IDF stance has been up to now that there will be no redeployment in Hebron.

"My feeling is that the talks got bogged down, and the government felt it had to give something else to keep them going," Arnon said. "It's like the gambler who goes to Las Vegas and bets and bets until he has nothing more to wager, so he put up his mother and father."

Arnon said redeployment only around Jewish areas would not work.

"No normal person would put up with a situation where a terrorist lives in the home across from yours," he said. "Last year a Lau missile was launched at a home in Beit Schneerson. Imagine what would happen if the IDF would redeploy."

Arnon said any Arab attacks would be met by Jewish counterattacks, and the situation would "spiral out of control."

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, meanwhile, told Israel Radio there is not justification for the Jewish settlement in Hebron. "Kiryat Arba was built so Jews don't have to live in Hebron," Aloni said. "There was recognition that Hebron is an Arab city."

Aloni said the Hebron settlers "behave there almost like the Serbs."

Arnon responded that Aloni was racist against Jews and has "no idea of what Judaism or Zionism is."

Gunmen kill Palestinian detective in Gaza Strip

MASKED gunmen shot dead a Palestinian police detective in the Gaza Strip yesterday, family and witnesses said.

It was the second time in eight days unknown gunmen have killed a Palestinian policeman in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Witnesses said Amer Salah, 32, a captain and criminal detective, was shot down in front of his home in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza City.

He was a PLO-backed leader in the camp during the intifada and joined the Palestinian police soon after the IDF withdrew in May 1994.

Police launched searches for the gunmen. They have still not captured the three gunmen who shot dead a policeman guarding the house of Gaza's chief civil judge on July 15. (AP)

My much beloved wife
FRANZISKA (FRANZI) FROEHLICH
has reached the end of her suffering.
The funeral has taken place.
Please abstain from condolence visits.
Paul Froehlich



Interior Minister Ehud Barak (right), attending his first cabinet meeting as a minister, grins at his successor, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak (left, with back to camera). (Flash 90)

Namir, PA counterpart discuss social issues

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir and Palestinian Authority Social Affairs Minister Intisar Wazir (Umm Jihad) discussed the economic plight of Palestinians in the autonomous areas during a meeting yesterday evening in Gaza.

"If the security situation improves, we will be able to allow more Palestinian workers to

work in Israel," Namir said at a press conference the two held after their two-hour meeting. Namir said Wazir asked her to increase the number of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel to help alleviate the difficult economic situation in the Gaza Strip.

The two also discussed the plight of Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, with Wazir saying

they were in a difficult situation. Namir said Wazir asked her to bring about the release of women prisoners and said she promised to examine the matter.

Wazir said the meeting was fruitful and contributed to the peace process. She said she hoped the two would continue cooperating on the issues discussed and meet again. (Itim)

Jordan hoping to soon see expanded self-rule

AMMAN (AP) — Prime Minister Zeid Bin Shaker said yesterday he hopes Israel and the Palestinians will soon reach agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the territories.

He told a visiting Palestinian official that Jordan "hopes the agreement will be reached at the earliest time so that the Palestinians and the Israelis can proceed to negotiations on the final status" of the West Bank.

Bin Shaker's comments, carried by the state-run Petra News Agency, were made during a half-hour meeting with Faisal Hussein, minister for Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian Authority.

Toddler dies from eating medicine

A two-year-old boy from Umm el-Fahm died yesterday morning, apparently after eating medications he found at a neighbor's home.

His mother took him to visit her friend's home, where he succeeded in getting into a box of medicines and swallowing its contents. When she returned home, the boy began to vomit heavily. She rushed with him to the local health fund clinic, but he died despite doctors' efforts. (Itim)



Foreign Minister Shimon Peres shakes hands yesterday with Argentinian Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella outside the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. During their meeting, Di Tella promised that Argentina would not sell Syria a nuclear reactor if Israel felt it jeopardized its security. (Ariel Jerolimski)

Hai Vekayam blocks Temple Mount entrance

JERUSALEM police arrested seven members of the Hai Vekayam group yesterday, after they blocked the entrance to the Temple Mount.

The group gathered at the gate near the Western Wall at about 9 a.m. and tried to enter the mount to pray there. They were blocked by police from entering the mount. In protest the group sat down in the

entrance and began to sing, preventing tourists and Moslems from entering. A half an hour later, police demanded that they leave, and four women and a minor who refused were arrested.

In the afternoon, two men from the group made a similar attempt to gain entrance and were arrested after refusing to leave the site. (Itim)

NRP: Soldiers should decide for themselves on rabbis' ruling

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE National Religious Party yesterday called on the government not to involve the IDF in the evacuation of settlements and to allow each soldier who finds himself caught between a military order and the rabbis' ruling to decide for himself.

After a stormy, three-hour meeting of the NRP executive in Elkana, the party avoided taking an unequivocal position on the right-wing rabbis' ruling that heder-yeshiva students must disobey IDF orders to vacate military bases or settlements.

Each soldier must make up his own mind, the NRP decided. The NRP leadership remained torn between its commitment to halacha and its inability as a political party to undermine the IDF's authority.

Stating that the IDF's main purpose is to fight the enemy and protect lives, rather than vacate Jewish settlers from their homes, the NRP demanded that the IDF not be put in a situation where soldiers and commanders must carry out non-security

missions which may clash with the soldiers' faith and conscience.

NRP Chairman Ze'evulun Hammer said "the NRP is not required to either make halachic rulings or to give legitimacy to such rulings. No soldier [of the heder-yeshiva students] will say, 'I don't want to fight.' But each soldier who finds himself in conflict between military orders and halacha should be allowed to decide, after consulting with his rabbi, on what to do."

MK Hanan Porat said at the meeting that "if the government acts against its duties to save life and protect the settlers' lives, then it's blatantly illegal order. We must tell the defense minister and the IDF authorities, 'don't put soldiers in this confrontation between their faith and conscience and military commands.'"

Former NRP leader Yosef Burg, who opposed the rabbis' ruling, warned against the rift which the ruling, if accepted, would cause in the religious national camp.

The Jews of Lithuania Masha Greenbaum
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Bert Goldstein - former president of American Pioneer Women, the forerunner of Na'amat, and widow of Zionist leader Israel Goldstein - celebrates her 100th birthday yesterday with a cake delivered by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. (Joe Malcolm)

Cabinet approves large-scale tourism development plan

THE cabinet yesterday approved a \$4.5 billion, 10-year tourism development plan presented by Tourism Minister Uzi Baram.

According to Baram, the number of tourists increased by 15 percent last year in comparison with 1993. This was three times the rate of increase in previous years, he said. Some 1.2 million tourists arrived in the first half of this year.

HAIM SHAPIRO

Baram said the new tourism program would provide for infrastructure to accommodate some four million visitors a year, roughly double the present number.

According to Baram, who is to honor workers in the tourist industry at a special event in Tel Aviv tomorrow, some 80,000

people were directly employed in tourism in 1994. By 2005, he said, the number will increase to about 150,000.

Jose Rosenfeld adds:

The cabinet yesterday approved the use of NIS 1.25 billion in unspent 1994 funds to cover this year's unbudgeted expenditures. A significant portion of the money will fund the redeployment of the IDF in the territories.

Man ostracized by rabbinical court for refusing religious arbitration

THE Beersheba Rabbinical Court should not be permitted to bar a man from burial in a Jewish cemetery and ban his children from religious schools just because he refused to accept religious arbitration in a business dispute, a petition to the High Court of Justice said yesterday.

The petition, filed by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), dealt with the case of Yitzhak Sofer, a contractor from Netivot who had a financial dispute with one Haim Cohen about a job Sofer was doing for him.

EVELYN GORDON

Cohen suggested they ask a rabbinical court to arbitrate the dispute, but Sofer did not agree to this.

The Beersheba Rabbinical Court therefore declared him a rebel against Torah law, the petition said, and wrote in its ruling that Sofer could not be counted in a quorum for prayers or buried in a Jewish cemetery, that no one should teach his children and that people should ostracize him.

Large posters about the ruling

were put up in Netivot synagogues, and the result, the petition claims, is that Netivot's largely religious population has ostracized both Sofer and his children.

Sofer's business has also been hurt.

The petition charges that the rabbinical court had no authority to make such a ruling, since the rabbinical courts have authority only over marriage and divorce. Furthermore, it said, the ruling was arbitrary and unreasonable in the extreme.

IEC committee recommends enhanced security

A COMMITTEE set up by the Israel Electric Corporation to investigate the murder of two security guards at an installation near Moshav Sha'ar Ephraim earlier this month has recommended that measures be taken to improve the company's security apparatus.

An investigation of the condition of the guards' equipment, methods, and fitness revealed them to be of a high standard.

However, the committee recommended several means to improve the level of security, including adding guard dogs at stationary guard

RACHEL NEIMAN

posts. At a later date, dogs will be added to car patrols. The report was presented to IEC general manager Rafi Peled over the weekend.

Peled said yesterday he was both "drawing conclusions and taking recommendations from the investigative committee," pointing out certain recommendations were already being implemented.

Haggai Lavi and Alex Polichenko were found shot to death on July 5

near the IEC installation, where a central portion of a major power line traverses in the Sharon region.

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Trans-Israel Highway to be built without environmental study

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday threw out a petition demanding an environmental impact study of the planned Trans-Israel Highway, thereby paving the way for the building of the road to continue.

In practice, the petition did not delay the highway at all.

While the Trans-Israel Highway Corporation had promised to do nothing more than publish a tender for a contractor and choose the winner as long as the petition was pending, the court issued its ruling before the contractor was actually chosen.

The petition was filed by the Israeli Union for Environmental Defense, which wanted an overall study of the road's environmental impact.

Localized studies of the environmental impact of each section

of the road, the group argued, would not produce a general picture of the impact on the nation's open spaces or on air pollution.

In response, the company argued that neither the law nor the national planning council required an overall study, and it had performed the localized studies demanded by the council.

Justices Mishael Cheshin, Zvi Tal and Tova Strasberg-Cohen accepted the state's argument, though the reasons for their decision will be given at a later date.

"I think it's very sad that in the middle of the 20th century, in contrast to what is done in most [Western] countries... [this plan] was passed without fundamental examinations," said Alon Tal, director of the union.

Tal said the verdict mandates a revision of the law, so that all major projects will have to be accompanied by a general environmental impact study.

Moshe Levy, chairman of the Trans-Israel Highway Corp., said he was willing to cooperate with environmental groups to minimize the damage caused by the road, but not at the expense of a mammoth delay, such as would be caused by a general environmental impact study.

"At the time [when the issue first came up], I went to the petitioners and other environmental organizations and told them: 'This road is a necessity, and it will be built. Instead of wasting energy on a misguided war, let's try to minimize the damage by finding solutions together,'" he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Accused daughter killer refused bail

Miriam Weissman, 74, accused of murdering her 33-year-old daughter Natalie in December, lost an appeal to Tel Aviv District Court yesterday to be released on bail.

Weissman and her husband, Michael, were charged with suffocating their daughter while she was asleep, but their defense lawyer maintains that Natalie committed suicide. An autopsy showed she had taken a large amount of sleeping pills the night she died.

Raine Marcus

Hospitals staff declares work dispute

Government hospital administrative and maintenance personnel will be entitled to apply sanctions in 10 days, following registration of their work dispute with the Histadrut. The staffers held a series of strikes a few weeks ago, but halted their work actions after the Health and Finance ministries agreed to discuss their demands.

The union, representing some 3,000 staffers in 30 hospitals, is protesting against the government's "failure" to carry out decisions of the Padeh Committee for granting professional advancement to workers. Union chief Batya Levy said the talks have so far been fruitless.

Judy Siegel

NSF research grants up 20 percent

The Israel Academy of Sciences' National Science Foundation will distribute NIS 70 million in grants this year for basic scientific research, it was announced yesterday.

This is a 20 percent increase over last year, and the highest sum ever allocated by the academy for research grants. The three-year grants will be awarded in a large variety of scientific fields, from life sciences and medicine, to the exact sciences and technology to social sciences. They range from NIS 93,000 to NIS 120,000.

Judy Siegel

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Poll hits Japan socialists but Murayama likely to survive

PRIME Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Socialist party suffered a major setback in upper house elections yesterday but appeared to be winning enough seats to let him stay in office.

Voters stayed away from the polls in record numbers, underscoring the depth of apathy against politics after two years of revolving-door governments and switching alliances.

Murayama is the country's fourth prime minister since 1993 and Sunday's House of Councilors election, although it could not directly decide the prime minister's future, was regarded as a virtual referendum on his leadership.

Half of the 252-seat chamber, by far the less powerful of Japan's two houses, comes up for election every three years, with members serving six-year terms.

According to exit polls by major television networks, Murayama's Socialists were set to win about 15 of the 126 seats at stake, seven short of his stated goal.

EUGENE MOOSA
TOKYO

Although the projected result meant the Socialists lost 26 seats, or nearly two-thirds of their seats that were up for election, parliamentary insiders had forecast Murayama would not come under pressure to resign if his party managed to win 15 seats.

Murayama's three-party coalition was expected to win about 66 seats, nine less than in the old house, according to exit polls by NTV, TV Asahi and Fuji TV.

Most of the seats the Socialists lost went to their coalition partner, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the main opposition group Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) which was formed only nine months ago.

The LDP was projected to win 49 seats, up 16, while Shinshinto, was projected to win 38 seats, up 18. The small Sakigake party, third partner in the ruling coalition, was expected to win two

seats, up by one.

Asked if Murayama should remain as prime minister in view of the results, LDP president and foreign minister Yohei Kono, told NHK public television: "The coalition as a whole will probably win a majority of seats at stake. This means we have won the confidence of the people."

Shinshinto officials were delighted at the results.

"These are wonderful results because they show Shinshinto is being recognised by voters as capable of taking over the government in the future," said Shinshinto deputy secretary-general Kozo Watanabe.

The polls were Japan's first national elections since a 1993 lower house election which ended 40 years of one-party rule by the LDP.

According to NHK public television, the final turnout rate was expected to be about 45 percent, five per cent lower than the previous worst turnout in a 1993 upper house election. (Reuters)



Firemen rescue a woman from the ledge of a seven-story factory building in Hong Kong yesterday after it was engulfed in flames. Twenty-three people were injured in the blaze. (AP)

Secret British-Sinn Fein talks enrage Protestants

BELFAST (Reuters) - Furious pro-British Protestant politicians pressed Britain yesterday to come clean about the agenda of a top-secret Northern Ireland meeting last week between ministers and the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein.

Britain was forced to confirm the ground-breaking "private meeting" after Dublin's *Sunday Tribune* newspaper reported that Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew had met Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams in Londonderry on Tuesday.

The meeting, aimed at easing growing tension in the British-ruled province's 11-month peace process, ended months of deadlock between the two sides but fanned Protestant politicians' suspicions of secret deals.

Confirming the meeting, the Northern Ireland Office said: "The government saw this meeting as a constructive way of restating its position, exploring the position of Sinn Fein and seeking to advance the (peace) process."

It said junior Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator in recent bilateral exploratory talks, also took part.

Practically every move that pleases Sinn Fein, which wants Northern Ireland to become part of the Irish republic, enrages lead-

ers of the province's Protestant majority who want no change to its status within the United Kingdom.

"It's about time the (British) Northern Ireland Office was full and frank with the people of Northern Ireland because this sort of behavior... is only going to create deep uncertainty and anxiety in the community," said David Trimble, an MP in the dominant Ulster Unionist Party.

"There has to be a full statement by the Northern Ireland Office as soon as possible," he said.

It was Mayhew's first known meeting in Northern Ireland with Adams since the IRA stopped its 25-year fight against British rule last September, opting to pursue its goal of a reunified Ireland through all-party talks.

Their only other acknowledged meeting was a brief session in Washington in May on the margins of a US government conference, promoting investment in post-cease-fire Northern Ireland.

Mayhew's subsequent refusal to speak to Adams publicly in the province itself provoked Sinn Fein claims of political discrimination.

Britain has consistently held out against multilateral talks until the IRA, and its foes in fiercely pro-British guerrilla forces, hand over massive stockpiles of armaments to prove their commitment to long-term peace.

Negotiators see Chechen deal; Dudayev opposes it

GROZNY (Reuters) - Russian and Chechen negotiators promised an early political deal on the rebel region yesterday, but leader Dzhokhar Dudayev said Chechnya would stay independent and the latest peace talks would not succeed.

Dudayev's uncompromising pro-independence stance appeared to cast doubt on forecasts of an agreement on Chechnya's future political status - showing that peace may still be far away.

Chechen field commanders, quoted by Russia's Itar-Tass news agency, said they were ready to die for independence and Dudayev said Russia would never stand by its promises to rebuild the region, devastated in seven months of fighting.

"The Chechen republic is a sovereign independent state and the Chechen nation is a free people," Tass quoted Dudayev as saying in a television statement recorded from a secret studio and broadcast in the rebel region late on Saturday.

"There is not a force on earth that can break the will of the Chechen people and lead it back into the Russian stable."

Kashmiri abductors: Hostage badly wounded

SRINAGAR, India (Reuters) - Kashmiri militants holding five Western hostages said yesterday one captive was in a serious condition after being wounded in a gunbattle last Friday with Indian security forces.

The Al-Faran group statement made in Srinagar, did not name the seriously wounded hostage, nor say what his nationality was. The group is holding two Britons, a German, a Norwegian and an American.

"Indian forces tried to raid one of our secret hideouts at Kapra near Anantnag when the hostages were there. Two hostages were injured in indiscriminate firing by the Indian forces. The condition of one of them is serious," the Al-Faran statement, written in Urdu, said.

It added that if Indian forces continued to track the guerrillas, they could not be responsible for the lives of the hostages.

Al-Faran said Indian forces had raided their hideouts at least five times since they

kidnapped the five Westerners nearly three weeks ago.

The Indian government denies Al-Faran's assertion that two hostages were injured in a clash with Indian security forces.

"There was no such incident. There was no encounter," an official spokesman said. He said yesterday the hostages appeared safe.

An official spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir government said efforts were on for the release of the hostages, but indicated the two sides might have reached a stalemate again.

"There is nothing much happening. It is a tricky situation, each side trying to wear out the other. Our efforts are towards getting them released," he said.

A Western diplomat, in Srinagar to oversee the hostage crisis, refused to say anything on the fate of the hostages and their possible release.

The hostages' female partners, who left for

New Delhi last Tuesday, returned to Srinagar on Saturday raising speculation that they might have come back on receiving word that the captives were being released by the shadowy Al-Faran group.

American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert, Norwegian Hans Ostro and Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan were abducted near Pahalgam, 90 km from Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, in three separate incidents.

Al-Faran refused to extend beyond last Monday a deadline it had set for India to say it would free 20 guerrillas Al-Faran wants in exchange for the victims. It threatened to kill the hostages anytime after that, and warned India against any rescue attempt.

India has repeatedly appealed to the captors to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds, but officials say it will not bargain away guerrillas to free the captives. Officially, it also denies any talks with the captors.

WORLD BRIEFS

Athens forest fire under control

A huge forest fire which has raged through the northeastern outskirts of Athens for the last three days, gutting homes and destroying woodland has been brought largely under control, the fire brigade said yesterday.

As gale winds eased, Greek, French and Italian planes bombarded the blaze with tons of water. Five helicopters from Germany were due to join the fight later in the day after the government asked for urgent help from European Union partners. (Reuters)

Many missing as typhoon hits S. Korea

At least 22 people were missing and an oil tanker ran aground yesterday when Typhoon Faye, packing winds of 150 kph, hit southern South Korea, the government anti-disaster agency said. The domestic news agency Yonhap put the number of dead or missing as a result of the weather at around 40. (Reuters)

Jury: Susan Smith guilty of murdering her sons

UNION, SC (Reuters) - A South Carolina jury on Saturday found Susan Smith guilty of first-degree murder in the drowning deaths of her two young sons, a move that could send the 23-year-old mother to the electric chair.

Smith, wearing a black jacket and a green skirt, started shaking and had to be supported by her lawyers as the jury announced its verdict after just 2½ hours.

Judge William Howard told the jury's nine men and three women to reconvene on Monday for the "penalty phase" of the case to decide whether Smith will receive life in prison or execution in South Carolina's electric chair.

Smith admitted to sending her two young sons plunging to their deaths strapped into car seats when she allowed her car to roll into a lake last October 25.

Smith's attorney, David Bruck, said the case was "heart-breaking," but said "there's more to tell about this story."

Earlier Saturday, Howard had presented the jury with the option of finding Smith guilty on lesser charges of involuntary manslaughter, which would carry a maximum of five years in prison on each count.

But Bruck said he "was never hopeful" about an involuntary manslaughter verdict.

Smith's trial marked the end of a tale of murder, duplicity and regret that alternately touched and

shocked the US.

For nine days after the October killings, Smith, who is white, maintained that a black man had taken her car and kidnapped the two boys.

She made tearful pleas on TV for their safe return. On November 3, the hoax collapsed and she admitted to causing the drownings herself.

During Saturday's emotional closing arguments in the packed Union County Courthouse, prosecutors portrayed Smith as a cold-hearted killer seeking to regain the affection of a former lover who did not want children.

Smith, the boys' grandparents, and two female jurors cried as they were again confronted with the painful details of how her car plunged into the lake, ending with its grill stuck in the mud six meters under water.

"(Michael and Alex) were hanging upside down for nine days," prosecutor Tommy Pope said.

He said Smith knew right from wrong at the time of the crime and emphasized for the jury her readiness to blame the crime on a fictional black man.

The defence, which earlier ended its case after 2½ days of testimony, presented instead a profile of a remorseful woman fighting both depression and a past tainted with sexual molestation at the hands of her stepfather and fear of abandonment.

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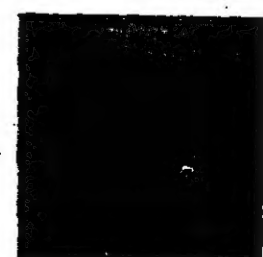
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She's anything but a black narcissus

EVERYTHING about singer/songwriter Joan Armatrading's body language says: "I dread being interviewed."

Hunched by the window of the Dan Tel Aviv's business lounge on a recent visit to promote her two August concerts here, she is the opposite of the usual spotlight-seeking diva.

Narcissism is not her thing. Audiences at her first performances in the early Seventies, she says, "saw a great deal of the top of my head," as she looked down at her shoes.

The shy image is right in sync with the woman here today: A veteran performer who has incorporated absolutely no stage mannerisms nor defenses into her personal style.

"I only began performing after my record label insisted," she says, explaining how a career that has spanned more than 20 years and includes numerous Top 10 albums plus two Grammy nomi-

nations for Best Female Vocalist, began very privately.

"I wrote my first songs on an old upright piano and a guitar that my mother swapped for two old prams at a pawnshop."

That was all it took for the 14-year-old, who had moved to Birmingham from the Caribbean island of St. Kitts at age seven, to take off. "I didn't really have any influences at that time, because I didn't listen to anybody. I just sat at the piano and wrote the songs."

Eventually she started making simple demo tapes in which she accompanied herself only on guitar.

At 21 years old, "every recording company I approached was interested," and she soon found a home at the major A&M label without ever having appeared on stage.

Her first album *Whatever's for Us* (released in 1973) quietly claimed a career of critical acclaim and commercial success.

Her last visit to this country was in 1988, after the release of her 13th album, *The Shouting Stage* (Helicon). Three shows were enthusiastically received by a public clutching tickets for performances by one "Joan Armatrading."

Armatrading is equally keen on audiences here because "they respond!"

LOCAL GEOGRAPHY has even received an honorable mention on her new release *What's Inside* (Hed Arzi).

The song "Can't Stop Loving You" opens with the words "Might as well ask me to drown in the Dead Sea."

And yes, it was written from personal, free-floating experience.

What's Inside features 13 new songs with fluid melodies and lyrics that communicate with the immediacy of real conversations.

TIRZAH AGASSI

"Shapes and Sizes," the first single, "is a song highlighting the need to express your feelings to someone before it's too late."

"Trouble" is a tribute to her mother "because I wanted to let her know that I admire her."

Nonetheless, like so many of her songs, it can easily be shorn of specificity and applied to situations in the listener's life.

"People often tell me how a lyric of mine expressed exactly what they were going through at a certain time," Armadrading says, with obvious satisfaction.

Is that because she writes from intimate personal experience?

"No, a lot of my songs aren't about me," she replies. "I mean I would have lead a very busy life to go through that many emotional changes. I often write about what I see going on among my friends. They really like it and even hope that I'll write about them."

She points to the song "Everyday Boy" on the new album. "Well, I've never met anyone/With your courage/And the way you enjoy life/Puts me to shame" are lyrics written about a man with AIDS, she says. "Shapes and Sizes" also alludes to AIDS with the line, "Obituary columns are filled with love."

When this interviewer says she had understood it in a completely different light, nonetheless finding it personally significant, Armadrading smiles, impressing with her ability to make her statement, then let it go and enter people's lives at whatever angle suits them.

Though she may have started her performing career too shy to look the audience in the eye, she is now enthusiastic about playing her new material live.

"The show has three parts. It begins with old material with a band. Then I do the new songs with just a guitar. Finally the band comes back and rocks up



Shy Joan Armadrading used to look down at her shoes when she first performed.

some of the well-known songs."

Her eyes light up at that last statement and for a moment all her reserve is gone.

Armatrading will perform in the Caesarea Amphitheater on August 10 and in Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium on August 12.

Elvis as Jewish as he is alive

SAY it isn't so! Published reports of Elvis Presley's Jewish roots have been refuted by his cousin's widow, Doris Mann of Memphis, Tennessee.

Mann was tracked down by *The Jerusalem Post* in order to check Hebrew press and radio reports claiming that Presley's mother Gladys was a Jew with the maiden name Mandel. These reports were based on a May 26 article in *The Jewish Chronicle* in London.

Doris Mann checked the rumor with Wayne Mann, Presley's closest surviving relative on his mother's side. According to Wayne, son of Gladys Presley's sister Lillian, neither woman was Jewish and their maiden name was Smith.

The family, however, takes the mix-up with good grace. Doris Mann requested that a Hebrew article on the subject be sent to her. "I'll get it deciphered. I have many Jewish friends. I'll get the rabbi to decipher it if I have to." Tirzah Agassi

A 'Tree' grows amid the mush

FILM REVIEW

ADINA HOFFMAN

UNDER THE DOMIM TREE

Directed by Eli Cohen. Screenplay by Gila Almagor and Eyal Sher. Hebrew title: *Ez Hadomin Tafus*. 102 minutes. Hebrew dialogue, no subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.

Aviya Kaipo Cohen
Mira Riki Blich
Jurek Ohad Knoller
Mother Gila Almagor

Eli Cohen's *Under the Domim Tree* glows. Literally, the sequel to Gila Almagor's first autobiographical film, *Aviya's Summer*, it is steeped in light so warm, so golden, so softly pastoral that on several occasions one half expects the cast of young actors to pull red pipes from out of their pockets and play in spontaneous harmony.

But the movie — without a doubt the strongest local creation of the last few years and the deserving co-winner of this year's Wolgin Award at the Jerusalem Film Festival — is much more complex than its sunny palette might indicate. Set at a Youth Aliya village in 1953, the film focuses on a group of adolescent Holocaust survivors and sabras from troubled families, whom circumstance has forced to live side-by-side and apart, in a state of permanent inner and outer dissociation.

On the one hand, their world is completely public, a picture-perfect model of successful Zionist socialization. Dressed in identical sandals and shorts, these well-fed charges of the state share bedrooms, showers, meals, farm-house chores, and music-appreciation classes, as well as various crises and happy surprises. Meanwhile, each child secretly guards a grain silo's worth of private pain.

Jurek and Ze'evik (Ohad Knoller and Jenia Katzan) are two thin, blond Polish refugees who spent the war years hiding in the woods. Even within the seemingly safe confines of the village, they feel hunted. At nighttime, when the golden light fades to an ominous blue, they tear through the forests and howl like ravenous wolves.

Jula (Orly Perl) has a wide, endearing grin that grows even wider and more endearing when she learns that the father she thought was dead is alive and liv-

ing in Poland. As she prepares for her trip to go meet him, she seems dangerously close to bursting. And while we're glad for her, we can't help but worry a bit: the willing receptacle for all the children's fantasies about their missing parents, she seems destined to be disappointed.

Then there's Mira (Riki Blich), a sullen, mysterious girl who arrives in the middle of the year and makes no attempt to join the group. Sara (Aya Shitfeli) is a haughty survivor, preoccupied with receiving reparations from the Germans and succeeding on her own. And at the quiet center of the action is, of course, Aviya (Kaipo Cohen), whose mentally ill mother (Almagor) has been institutionalized and who knows even less about her long-dead father than many of her orphaned friends know about theirs.

Technically, *Under the Domim Tree* is leaps and bounds ahead of the average Israeli film. The movie is, in a word, professional. Although it may sound foolish to praise cinematographer David Garfinkel and editor Danny Schick for just doing their jobs — that is, for adding to the drama, instead of subtracting from it — this modest accomplishment still eludes the vast majority of local filmmakers.

In this case, though, the skillful photography and montage only help director Cohen and scriptwriters Almagor and Eyal Sher to construct a psychologically convincing, well-proportioned work. Instead of wallowing in the sloppy melodrama or wide-screen sociology of most pictures produced here, Cohen and company turn their collective attention to the task of execution, to the gradual accumulation of emotional and visual detail and, perhaps most important of all, to the work of the extremely talented young acting ensemble, made up in part of recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

There's something deeply poignant about seeing this mixture of real immigrants and sabras play make-believe immigrants and sabras. Without exploiting the life/art parallels to kitsch effect, the director simply uses the faces of these children to tell large chunks of the story. Beside Kaipo Cohen's dark, drooping features, for example, the tight, pale features of Ohad Knoller seem downright otherworldly. Or



July (Orly Perl) plays a war orphan in one of the few local movies that doesn't wallow in sloppy melodrama.

vice versa. By means of these casting decisions, the filmmakers help us to see the children the way they see each other, as both compelling and very strange.

Under the Domim Tree is not free of problems. Benny Nagari's music often feels out of whack with a scene's tone — inappropriately cheerful or menacing; sometimes the dialogue sounds a touch clichéd; and the ending is a serious glitch, a pat, ideological finish to a film that remains, for the most part, free of such prefab sentimentality.

Some viewers may take exception to the film's rosy depiction of the communal life as a song-filled existence, complete with spirited

folk dancing and the boundless emotional support of one's peers. But it at least helps to know that the movie practices what it preaches.

Unlike so many other local films, *Under the Domim Tree* is a successful group effort, and because of that, it glows.

One-time stranger in the night finds a place in opera spotlight

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

IN Lucio Gallo's first appearances here, the operatic baritone sang works associated not with Mozart, Donizetti or Verdi — but with Sinatra.

"I joined a cruise ship that was sailing the Mediterranean and more often than not we anchored in Israel. I really loved doing *New York, New York*," said the 36-year-old, who is back to sing in a concert version of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

"I really like it here. Tel Aviv is like the south of Italy, where I come from."

Local opera buffs were first acquainted with Gallo a couple of months ago, when he portrayed the Count in Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, in the Hamburg Opera production which was visiting the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center.

As a youth, Gallo never liked opera, he admitted in heavily accented English during a recent conversation at the IPO guest house.

"I sang a lot of jazz music and that was great fun. But I just could not stand the over-dramatic in the world of opera."

"My parents heard opera a lot and my mother tried to convince me to at least listen to it once. But I didn't want anything to do with that."

Between the ages of 17 and 21 Gallo had the best time of his life, singing jazz and pop on cruise ships. Life has changed considerably since then. Gallo is the father of two girls, aged nine years and 21 months, and he sings opera with leading conductors worldwide.

The change came after Gallo's military service.

"I played double bass at the conservatory and a friend of mine told me I should learn to sing. So I auditioned with *New York, New York* and three years later I gave my first concert. Two years after that I debuted in the role of Marcello in *La Bohème* in a production that toured China with Pavarotti."

TODAY GALLO is one of the most sought-after baritones in the world. He enjoys the vagabond life, moving regularly from New York's Metropolitan Opera

to the Vienna Staatsoper, from Covent Garden to Hamburg and from Munich to Berlin. This, along with performances in the leading opera houses of his homeland: La Scala, Florence and Turin.

Gallo sings a lot of Mozart. He has sung both Figaro and the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro* and both Leporello and the protagonist in *Don Giovanni*. But he no longer fancies the servants.

"The Count is a real baritone role while Figaro is more bass-baritone. And I enjoy doing Leporello but only when he is treated seriously. I did my first Leporello with director Luc Bondi, who made him a student and disciple of Giovanni. But many directors want to do Leporello like a buffoon, a clown, and this is wrong."

He believes that Mozart is the best composer for a young singer. "You must start with Mozart and never leave Mozart for the style. At the same time you must always sing Schubert and Mahler — it's like a massage for the voice."

Gallo is building his repertoire slowly and cautiously. "I recently did my first Scarpia in *Tosca*. It's a dramatic role but it has lyric qualities," he says, immediately breaking into one of the villain's most famous passages.

He is also on the lookout for non-operatic roles. "I don't think it's good or right to do just opera. You should also sing concerts and, even more so, lieder."

"If you are one of those singers who performs just three or four roles throughout your career, it can become really boring. I like to do a little bit of everything. It's much better for the vocal chords and for your mind."

The current IPO operatic offerings are in concert form, without sets or costumes. This approach has its own merits, says Gallo.

"In a staged production people can feel the story much more. For

me as a singer in such concert performances I have to explain a lot with my eyes and my face. But you can do it. Anyone who has heard Callas in concert knows that it can be done. With a good cast and a marvelous conductor [Zubin Mehta], as we have here, you can make it happen."

Gallo admits that Lucia is not a great baritone opera. "Enrico is not a bad role but obviously he's not a Giovanni, a Scarpia or a Rigoletto."

"But I like the opera. I like the duet with Lucia and then of course there is the sextet which is simply glorious music. Enrico is a good preparation for Verdi."

ALTHOUGH GALLO's career is still developing, he has already begun teaching, along with his own teacher and mentor Elio Battaglia.

"I really love teaching and I do learn so much from my students. If you have a talent for teaching then there is no real point in waiting until you are 60. At that age, you are just a copy, and a not so good one, of yourself, and it's impossible to explain to the students using your voice what you want them to do."

"Famous singers who had long careers and never taught found it impossible to suddenly start teaching at the end of their career. Their lessons became just telling the students how they used to do it long ago and why the students cannot do the same. I believe we should start teaching when the voice is in its prime."

And he'll never be too old for Sinatra.

"I still sing this music, but only at family parties. I like it, but only when it is performed within its own style, and not with an operatic voice."

Gallo performs the role of Enrico, Lucia's domineering and interfering brother in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* with the IPO Tuesday and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium, Saturday and next Sunday and Monday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

Ra'anana orchestra stages mutiny

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

LAST May the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra embarked on what was supposed to be a very important German tour.

In fact, the tour proved key to ending the reign of music director Yehoram Scharovsky. Next season will be his fifth — and last — with the orchestra.

When they returned home, some of the musicians, who declined to be named, demanded that Scharovsky be replaced. They said that, for the past two years, Scharovsky has not come prepared to rehearsals, makes impossible technical demands from the players, and behaves arrogantly.

Scharovsky is currently in South America and could not be reached for comment.

"I know that the easy way out would have been to terminate the contract on the spot," says chairman of the board Ya'acov Yisraeli. "But we are speaking about human beings here and it is not done that way."

Yisraeli adds that "Scharovsky promised that he will continue his work this season in the best possible way, and we plan a grand farewell for him. After all he did very important work with us."

While not all orchestra members are happy with the situation, they seem to agree that, as professional musicians, they could go on playing with Scharovsky for one more year.

The board has approached Yuval Zeliuk about taking over as music director. Zeliuk worked with the orchestra last season, and apparently won it over.

"We approached him and he seemed interested. He is also aware of our financial state and knows how much we can and cannot pay him, but it seems he really wants this job," Yisraeli says.

General director Orit Fogel believes this would be the ideal solution for the orchestra. "It's about time we move forward. There is no point whatsoever in

talking about the past now. We have to look forward to the future, and I believe the orchestra is about to enter a new and exciting phase in its life."

Zeliuk, who owns YZ Enterprises in Ohio (which manufactures and markets Almondina cookies all over the world), is excited about the possibility of coming to Ra'anana.

"We have agreed about all the good and beautiful things we want to do together," he said in a phone interview from his office. "Now we just have to finalize the dirty work of all the details."

Zeliuk has made it clear, though, that he is not willing to spend most of the year in Israel.

"What this orchestra needs now is not a house conductor but a more international one, and he does not have to stay here all the year," Zeliuk will come to Ra'anana in January to lead a Mozart program with the Symphonette.

He also plans to come a few more times this season in order to start planning the 1996/97 season.

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Unacceptable brutality

THIS is not an easy country for the police. In addition to all their usual duties, they have to worry about terrorist acts, riots and unruly demonstrations. Keeping cool, restrained and fair in the face of provocation and constant tension must be difficult.

Yet it is the duty of law enforcement agencies to overcome such difficulties, and it is not enough that most policemen do. A few acting brutally and illegally can destroy the confidence of Israelis in their government.

In an article in a Hebrew daily yesterday, author Haim Guri described how a border policeman, talking to a 15-year-old Arab near the wall of the Old City, suddenly savagely kicked him in the stomach. Only the intervention of his comrades prevented further mayhem.

Quoting his daughter, who witnessed the incident with him, Guri ruefully wrote "He would have never dared act like this in west Jerusalem." This is, of course, the conventional wisdom, which maintains that police brutality is directed exclusively against Arabs. Many also seem to believe that if police abuse Jews, it is but an extension of what they practice on Arabs.

But 10 years ago, well before the intifada, Hebrew University criminologist Menahem Amir deplored not only the increase in police brutality but its ubiquity. It is being applied to all, regardless of religious, national or ethnic affiliation, he said. Today, the kind of despicable incident described by Guri is rare. Far more frequent are incidents of brutality intended to intimidate opponents of government policies.

Last month, Nadia Matar, leader of a militant but peaceful protest group known as "Women in Green" (which includes Ida Nudel in its ranks), was physically assaulted by the police. She had broken no law. In fact, she had not even reached the location, opposite Orient House, of the demonstration she had intended to lead. A diminutive woman, Matar was grabbed from behind by a brawny policeman who choked her with a wrestling hold until she fell to the ground. He then dragged her to a waiting police car, brought her to a police station at the Russian Compound and kept her there for six hours. No charges were ever filed.

On Saturday night last week, a 14-year-old boy was nabbed by policemen in civilian clothes as he was walking down the street in Hebron. The incident so resembled a kidnapping that the army was called to search for the police vehicle, assumed to be stolen, in which he had been abducted. The boy's parents, never notified of the arrest, found out about it by accident. At the police station the police denied their boy was there. He was released only in the early morning hours, after long hours of pleading by his mother.

The next day the police stopped a minibus full of girls aged 13 to 19 in Kiryat Arba. One of the girls, attempting to open a window, pushed away the hand of a police officer who tried to stop her. Shouting that she had attacked him, the policeman, yelling threats and cursing, slapped and beat her and the other girls on the bus.

The girls were then brought to police headquarters in Jerusalem, where a few women, waiting for the release of other detainees, noticed their crying. When told of the beatings, the women began chastising the police, to which the lawmen responded by assaulting them too. One of the women, Rivka Zariv was thrown against a vehicle and sustained head injuries. She was then beaten to the ground and severely kicked, suffering kidney damage. Both she and another woman in the group were hospitalized. The others endured slaps, kicks and fist blows.

(According to the Jerusalem paper *Kol Ha'ir* the police's only comment when asked about the incident was that the women could complain if they wished. Seven women, including a pregnant woman and two girls of 13, have filed complaints at the Justice Ministry's department for the investigation of police misconduct.)

The next day, a group of elderly men and women, mostly American citizens, were gathered outside the same headquarters to inquire about detainees. Suddenly, an order to evacuate the area was given. When the group did not move fast enough the police severely beat them with batons and fists. One 70-year-old suffered head injuries.

Perhaps more worrisome than the police's conduct is that they routinely claim their victims had assaulted them, and they even give out false information to the press about police injuries. It is a measure of their cynicism, moral corruption and contempt for the law that they believe the public and the courts are gullible enough to buy stories of assaults by 13-year-old girls and 70-year-old men on hulking policemen.

Many on the political right believe that such conduct indicates a deliberate government campaign to suppress dissent and discourage protest. The sight of policemen outnumbering a score of demonstrating women, roughing them up and arresting them for no apparent reason tends to confirm such suspicions, despite continued police brutality against others.

But above and beyond the political implications, the police brass and Police Minister Moshe Shahal must realize that law enforcers who beat teenage girls and elderly men belong not in the police force but in a rehabilitation center for sadists. And those who knowingly keep them on the police force belong not in senior public posts but in the dock.

DEB 95

I APPRECIATE THE GESTURE, BUT
WE'LL HAVE TO SEND A RABBI TO
CHECK IF THERE IS A PROPER
CIRCUMCISION



No handouts for women

THE Israeli version of "affirmative action" calls a spade a spade - the Hebrew term being "corrective discrimination." This is the basis for the Labor Party's minimum quota of allotting 10% of its Knesset list to women candidates (and for Labor women politicians' current drive to double this figure).

But no matter what it is called, it is still discrimination and women looking for a place in the political sun do not constitute a sector deserving of discrimination. Obviously, they are under-represented and equally obvious is the need for a change, but two wrongs don't necessarily make a right.

Without resorting to quotas, we have reached a satisfactory situation in Sephardi representation, on both the local and national levels. Only newly-arrived Israelis from the former Soviet Union, who are now a major chunk of the population, would seem to have a rightful claim to under-representation.

Within each ethnic group, however, there are at least as many women as there are men, and they are indeed under-represented. This holds true for all communities, all parties, all political and administrative entities, as well as for all financial institutions and all professional careers.

Are we being intentionally discriminated against? The answer is uncertain. For myself, I believe the root cause is not discrimination per se, but rather a combination of factors working against any woman outside her home (and often inside it, too). The best way to improve the status of women is to take care of these impediments.

A Ph.D. thesis could be written about these factors, starting with the problems of women's military service, on through the lack of female solidarity and ending with

HANNA SEMER

an understandable reluctance by women to pay the price for a successful career. There is still no easy way to combine a career with a family life without hurting either, or both.

Women's organizations, led by Na'amat, fall in their duty if they put the accent on representation while simultaneously closing down day-care centers. In fact, many more such centers should be opened and maintained, for they constitute the infrastructure which allows for women's promotion. These centers have no substitute for the lower socioeco-

method for reaching this goal. I think not. Discriminating in favor of a woman means discriminating against a man. This is no mere theory. In the current Knesset there sits at least one woman who won less votes than a male candidate, but bypassed him on the quota track. This type of democracy is, as any rape, dishonorable for women.

Women are not needy cases by virtue of their womanhood; if they put in the right amount of effort, they could reach the top in politics, too.

This is far from easy, because one has to push and shove and not only run fast, but sometimes also jump over obstacles. One has to be prepared for failure, as the success rate is very low, for both genders.

Look at the candidate list in the Labor Party's primary elections of 1992. This was the first time in Israel personal contests for Knesset seats were held. Out of 161 contenders, 42 reached their coveted goal; in other words, three out of four fell by the wayside. Eighteen contenders, slightly more than 11%, were women.

The failure rate among them was greater than among the men, but not dramatically so. Had five times this number of women taken part in this race, perhaps four times as many candidates would have been elected. If women shy away from the investment, the risk and the effort, who is to blame?

There should be more, many more women where it counts, where decisions are made, but they should pave and pay their way, rather than demand extra privileges. Women are no less intelligent than men, nor are they less energetic. They should neither demand nor accept political handouts.

THE drive for equality needs no explanation, no justification. It is a natural right and a correct aim in all domains, politics included. The question is whether corrective discrimination is a legitimate

THE writer is former editor of *Davar*.

One-way ticket to Masada

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman's call for a return to "Israeli culture, Israeli tradition and the Jewish tradition" after the Arad calamity mirrors the nostalgia prevalent in many sectors of today's society. Religious right-wingers blame the government's "dangerous" peace policy on the rejection of our Jewish heritage and old Laborites see the collapse of the Histadrut and the crisis in the kibbutz movement as stemming from the neglect of the good old socialist values.

There is nothing wrong with nostalgia. It is, however, a bad guide for solving problems. There is no doubt that contemporary society, both in Israel and abroad, is in a deep state of crisis. There is a certain sense of a lack of direction, an absence of resolve, too much materialism, too many individuals following the path to self-destruction.

But can one really say that a McDonald's hamburger is more to blame for these things than tefelafel (which the Arabs argue to be a Palestinian and not an Israeli food) or cholent (which many doctors will tell you is bad for your health)?

Can one really say that the "Jewish heritage" - which is itself in a deep state of crisis if it produces Dr. Goldsteins, zealots for whom stones and the alleged graves of all sorts of "holy men" are more important than human life - has all the answers? And isn't the problem with the "old socialist values" the fact that they

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

conflicted with human nature and were therefore bound, sooner or later, to become corrupted?

THERE is no doubt that there is a lot of beauty in some of the old Israeli values and myths, a lot of wisdom in Judaism and much to be proud of in the achievements of Labor Zionism. The fact is, however, that without a system of coercion none of them could maintain anything close to a monopoly in our society. The belief in the need to maintain a pure national culture, free of any "foreign" adulteration, has produced some pretty monstrous regimes in the world.

Religiously-motivated regimes moreover were, and still are, responsible, in the name of God, for abominable horrors - not because there was anything wrong with the religious principles which they professed, but because they were used by human beings to further ungodly goals. And totalitarian "Communist" and "Socialist" dictatorships have managed to give the principle of equality a bad name.

Instead of simplistically hitting

the rejection of "foreign" values has an undistinguished history

THE tragedy which occurred in Arad has nothing to do with the Americanization of Israeli society, just with bad crowd management.

THE writer is a political scientist.

POSTSCRIPT

THERE IS no need to investigate the devastating forest fire in the Jerusalem Corridor. An anonymous columnist in the *Agudat Yisrael* daily *Hamodia* has the explanation for why it occurred. He claimed that preparations for the wedding reception for Na'aman Navon (daughter of the fifth president) and Eran Pascal began on Shabbat, "despite supervision by" the Jerusalem religious council.

Due to the violation of the Sabbath, God caused the forest to be destroyed, and the Navon family had to rush to Tel Aviv for the ceremony and postpone the reception.

Know you know!

Indifferent culture

MARK L. LEVINSON

IT was exactly the wrong advertisement to appear amid *Yediot Aharonot's* coverage of the recent Arad calamity, which involved thousands of gate-crashers in a fatally unmanageable crowd. In inch-high type, overlaying a picture of scores of people crammed shoulder to shoulder, the full-page advertisement said: "I'm through standing in line!"

Contrary to President Ezer Weizman's attribution of the Arad crowd's behavior to Americanization, the Israeli reluctance to queue has been shocking Americans - along with other visitors and immigrants - for decades, be it at banks, bus stops, or groceries.

After the disaster, which claimed another victim yesterday, a police official said: "We didn't imagine that all those kids without tickets would come to the concert. We thought they would go to other concerts."

But they thought they'd get in anyway. It's part of the notorious Israeli attitude that rules are for suckers. A real Israeli hero gets his way without letting the rules bother him.

Some see the rule-breaking penchant reinforced in the years of Weizman's own glory, when Israel won its first wars by throwing away the rule book and doing the impossible. Certainly Weizman himself finds the unwritten rules of the presidency difficult - shattering them occasionally with an unrespectably opinionated remark on the peace process or the Americanization of Israeli life.

WEIZMAN blamed the crowd's behavior at Arad on the culture of Michael Jackson, Madonna, and McDonald's. McDonald's has made its share of mistakes in Israel, but it's operating here legally and does not deserve a condemnation at the presidential level.

Similarly, Michael Jackson and Madonna may have an unhealthy soft spot for violence and hedonism, but Weizman has no case against them. People weren't killed at their concerts here. People were killed in Arad at an all-Hebrew festival.

Kobi Oz of the Tea Packs band, who was performing when the trouble started, said: "You've got to understand that these kids can be frightening. They're stupefied, I don't know from what. They drink, and maybe worse. They stand there like cattle and bellow, and it doesn't matter at all what you sing to them." Some threw rocks, he said.

In America such a crowd is atypical. If American crowds were by nature impatient and unruly, there would be no Disneyland. In fact, there would be no McDonald's. Not that violent kids everywhere aren't influenced by America. So is Kobi Oz's music. So is everybody.

And speaking stereotypically, I think however Israeli it may be to try to jump a queue, you need some thoroughly non-Israeli, non-Jewish conditioning before you can ignore the suffering of others the way some kids in Arad did. The impatience is Israeli, the indifference modern American.

In a world where electronic communication makes all violence, whether real or fictional, equally immediate and equally remote, it's not surprising that in questionnaires the Arad organizers distributed after the deaths, a majority of the audience opposed stopping the festival. In fact, when Israel Television tried to report direct from Arad on the morning after the incident, the cameraman clowning of a crowd of kids in the background prevented the announcer from even being heard.

Weizman's wife, Reuma, was shocked at the broadcast, and she decried "the cheapening of human life in Israel." As Nathan Yonatan remarked in *Yediot Aharonot*, war may have made us stoical, but we can't allow ourselves to be heartless.

Some things are worth dying for. Some things are worth overcoming grief for. A rock concert is not one of them.

THE writer is a Heredia-based freelancer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DISPIRITED NATION

Sir, - By trying to incite Israeli public opinion against the residents of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Rabin is slithering to new lows of demagoguery and sheer bad taste - and anti-Zionism.

On June 21 he slandered the residents of Kadim and Ganim - small settlements close to Jenin - by charging that they bypass roads, fences and other security measures needed to protect them would cost some \$250,000 per family. Maybe so, but perhaps Mr. Rabin could present us with the bill of fences, patrol roads, army outposts, etc. strung across our northern border, our southern border adjacent to the Gaza Strip, and, of course, the new "Magenet Line" that will be needed to protect citizens of Kfar Sava, Afeka, Netanya, Rosh Ha'ayin along the 250 km. border with the Palestinians.

Hania, Migav Avim and Avivim in the north, Keren Shalom, Nir Yitzhak and Aluminim bordering on Gaza, are all small settlements. For more than 40 years, their defense has cost billions of dollars and hum-

dreds of lives, but no one, not even Mr. Rabin, would dare suggest they be dismantled. And why? Because the presence of Jews in these vulnerable, far-flung outposts defines the borders and territory of the State of Israel.

Finally, I must ask: Why do we need to spend our national budget to defend these tiny settlements? The answer: because the Palestinian Arab nation is striving - from 1921 until today - to destroy all Jewish presence in Eretz Yisrael. If they succeed in Ganim, Kadim, Netzarim or Tel Rumeida, they will rapidly find ourselves under attack in a myriad locations, from Kfar Yona to Ma'aleh Adumim, from Lachish to Gilat, from Hula to Ashkelon. A defeated, retreating and dispirited nation is signaling to the Arabs: "Our desire for peace knows no red lines. We are willing to negotiate and compromise over everything, including Jerusalem. But please, don't threaten to reclaim the village of Sheikh Munis. Now it's called Ramat Aviv, and Messrs. Rabin and Peres live there." Hania. JIM BENNETT

DISOBEYING ORDERS

Sir, - There are two reasons given by those who disagree with the recent rabbinic ruling: 1) Each soldier cannot decide for himself which orders he will follow. 2) It would destroy the army. The second is actually an extension of the first.

A dispassionate look at the situation shows that nobody, the rabbis included, is advocating that each soldier personally evaluate and decide upon which order he will follow. What they are saying is that a specific order endangers Jewish lives and violates our Bible; therefore, it should not be issued, and if issued, should not be executed. It means that our soldiers are neither unthinking robots nor obedient Nazis. They are loyal Israelis, but cannot be turned into terrorists. The rabbis' decision assures us that the army cannot be turned into a blind tool of destruction in the hands of a leadership gone haywire. It means that there is a failsafe measure, albe-

THE PEACE PROCESS

Sir, - In his letter "Let's call the Palestinian bluff" (*The Jerusalem Post*, July 12), David Froehlich writes that the idea that moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem at this time would do irreparable harm to the peace process is "sheer nonsense." Only an opponent of the peace process would fail to see the implications of such a move.

Jerusalem is a hyper-sensitive issue for both Israelis and Palestinians, and any serious changes in the current status quo, in favor of either side, before the final status negotiations begin, would seriously jeopardize their chances of success.

Froehlich notes that he serves as President Clinton's campaign chairman in Israel 1992, and he seems to feel betrayed by Clinton's unwillingness to move the embassy to Jerusalem at this time. He is clearly out of step with the majority of American Jews, over 70 percent of whom consistently express their support for the peace process in all surveys and public opinion polls, despite the opposition of a vociferous minority. All of the Jewish Democratic senators, led by Senator Diane Feinstein of California, also oppose the Dole amendment on moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem at this time.

The issue, both in Israel and the US, is not one of "false promises," but rather support for the opposition to the peace process.

HILLEL SCHENKER
Tel Aviv.

CASINOS IN ISRAEL

Sir, - This is to thank you for Neil Cohen's article of June 23 representing the paper of the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston on casino gambling, which was a public service on your part.

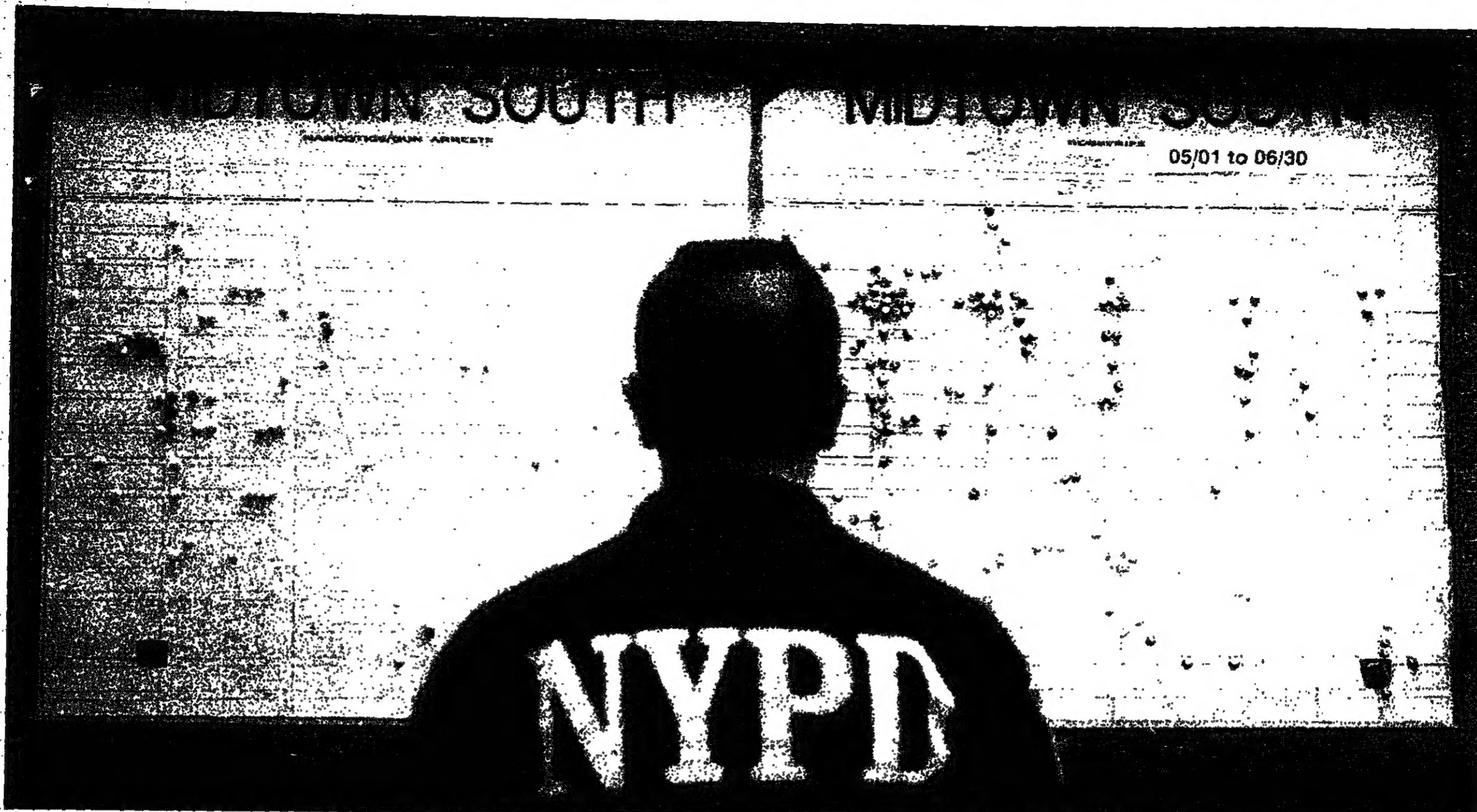
As a former court clerk, I know enough about casino gambling to hate what it does to its "clientele." As a resident of this wonderful country, I wish I knew more about how to fight the trend toward the acceptance of casinos.

GEORGE MARCIA
Karmiel.

Handwritten signature: 55/10/95

Crime Lab

Mystery of New York, the Suddenly Safer City



Robberies, burglaries and murders are down, and Police Commissioner William J. Bratton gives the credit to his department. At the Midtown South station house, an officer looks at the evidence.

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

NEW YORK CITY'S murder, robbery and burglary rates have plummeted to their lowest levels in a quarter century — a development that has become a marvel of American law enforcement. But Police Commissioner William J. Bratton will not be satisfied until every last criminologist surrenders.

"We'll knock them down like ducks in a row," said Mr. Bratton, speaking of all the standard criminological theories about how crime waves are tied to the size of the youth population, or to changes in the weather, or to unemployment levels, or to drug use patterns, or to the availability of guns.

As an enthusiastic brawler and bragger, Mr. Bratton wants the world to believe that it is his aggressive new crime strategies, and just about nothing else, that have forced New York's thugs into a fast retreat.

Still, almost everyone else who studies crime is mystified by New York's 30 percent drop in murder and

shooting incidents so far this year. Attorney General Janet Reno has called on her researchers to study it, and local social scientists are faxing faster than speeding bullets to foundations with grant proposals to test one new theory or another.

Many cities have increased their police forces and seen crime rates decline, just as New York has, but this city's drop is simply breathtaking. As of Thursday, the 648 murders so far this year were 312 below last year's total on July 26. Over the first six months, reported robberies fell by 21.9 percent, burglaries by 18.1 percent and motor vehicle theft by 25.2 percent over the same period in 1994. Only with rape, a crime that women are believed to be reporting more often, have the numbers remained roughly the same.

More Than Cops

"There's a miracle happening before our eyes and we don't know why it's happening," said Jeffrey Fagan, director of the Center for Violence Research and Prevention at Columbia University. "Cops deserve credit,

Maybe it's the police. Maybe it's the weather. Or are all the criminals behind bars?

but it would be a first in the history of social science for there to be a single reason for such a dramatic change in social behavior."

Central to the question of why crime has dropped so dramatically in New York two years in a row is the issue of whether crime is preventable by police work at all. Many researchers say crime is an inexorable symptom of deeper social trends, like the breakdown of family or community, that police cannot possibly control. Deferring to criminologists, police chiefs have accepted the notion that individual crimes are random events, driven by passion or desperation, made more

lethal in recent years by the easy availability of guns.

Mr. Bratton has disputed such thinking, and he has made New York City a laboratory for perhaps the most innovative policing of any big city in the country. In the crackdown on minor offenses, like public beer drinking and urination and unlicensed street vending, Mr. Bratton's department found new ways to frisk people for guns and check their records for outstanding warrants. Suddenly people brought into precinct station houses for nothing more serious than graffiti-scrawling were pressed for information about drug or gun dealing.

In the War Room

Mr. Bratton ordered the department's number-crunchers, who once measured productivity by clocking how fast patrol cars responded to calls, to design computer maps to plot crime trends daily for every street in the city. The approach likens criminals to enemy army units that can be squashed or deterred

Continued on page 3

Aggrieved at Last

The new calculus of American rights.

By Michael Wines



Hearing Tests

It's payback time on Capitol Hill.



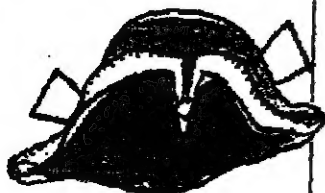
By David E. Rosenbaum

Napoleon Complex

The French are thinking big again.

By Craig R. Whitney

4



National Ids

Does Japan Still Need Its Scary Monster?

By JAMES STERNGLAND

LIKE many of his generation in Japan, he paid dearly for the aggressive impulses that had killed millions of people and left cities in ruin. Like them, he was also a victim of the terrible dawn of the atomic age, and then of the cold war. In recent years, he had been concerned with protecting Japan from environmental disasters as well as economic competitors, but those urges came with powerful doses of violence.

Yes, Godzilla was a troubled, complex creature. He was also a creature of his times.

The Toho Company of Tokyo, which made all 21 Godzilla films going back to the original 1954 classic, "Godzilla, King of the Monsters," announced last week that it had decided to make just one last movie about the world's most murderous, silly and, to some, serious, rubberized monster.

The Very, Very, Very Last

"Yeah, right, the last one," said Henry J. Saperstein, whose company, UPA Productions of America, has distributed the films in the United States.

But whether Toho continues to dust off the old formula or, as promised, lets the monster return to the two-million-year slumber from which he had been rudely awakened (by an American nuclear

test), the announcement was, like Godzilla's peculiar journey through Japan's postwar history, a telling comment on the country and how it sees itself.

If there is no more Godzilla, it is because Japan is now an assertive economic superpower, sure of its ability to shape world events, rather than a powerless country struggling, through fantasy, to overcome the threats it perceives. At least that is the view of those who, when they look at Godzilla, see a mirror held up to the modern Japanese psyche.

"Godzilla has changed over the years, but not as much as Japan," said Kenji Sato, a Tokyo-based author who has written several volumes on the monster. His most recent book foresaw Toho's announcement, arguing that at a time when Japan confronts the world with sharp auto salesmen and trade negotiators, it no longer needs an ambiguous, amphibious monster to stand up for its interests.

"This is a complete vindication of my theory," Mr. Sato gloated. "Godzilla is outdated."

Godzilla, of course, is not so much a movie or a creature as a robust industry. None of the Godzilla films set any box office records. And other Japanese films have produced more sequels. But for stature, Godzilla, with his 50-foot, 8-inch feet, 50,000-ton girth and incandescent tantrums, occupies a unique slot.

Toho says 85 million Japanese have seen the films. Mr. Saperstein said that

Continued on page 4



The Nation

On Capitol Hill, Politics Both High and Low

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

SOME of the proudest moments in modern American politics have occurred during Congressional investigations.

Take, for instance, the scene from the Army-McCarthy hearings in 1954, so often replayed on television, when Joseph Welch, the counsel for the Army, unraveled Senator Joseph R. McCarthy with the lament: "Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last?" Or consider the solemn votes in the House Judiciary Committee 21 summers ago to impeach President Richard M. Nixon.

But just as often, Congressional hearings have been forums for the worst in the political system. The House Un-American Activities Committee's abusive investigation in the 1940's of communism in the motion picture industry is a notorious example. A more recent one is the bloviating by senators and many witnesses alike at the Clarence Thomas-Anita F. Hill hearings in 1991.

Political Sideshows

Sometimes, like many symphonies, Congressional investigations begin quietly and build to a strong climax. So it is too early to evaluate conclusively the public hearings that began last week into two episodes in the early months of the Clinton Administration: the suicide of the deputy White House counsel, Vincent W. Foster, and the disastrous raid by Federal authorities on the cult compound in Waco, Tex., in which about 80 people died.

Still, at the first week of these hearings, they seemed more like political sideshows than high drama.

The Senate hearing on the Foster case pined the same ground that had been examined by the first Whitewater independent counsel, Robert B. Fiske Jr., and reviewed in public hearings last summer when Democrats still controlled Congress.

The Republicans are no longer challenging, as they once did, the finding of all the authorities that Mr. Foster killed himself in a park in Virginia. The chairman of the Senate investigating committee, Alfonse M. D'Amato of New York, declared that the purpose of these hearings was to determine whether the White House had impeded the police investigation of the suicide. The most likely determination is that, yes, the White House staff was uncooperative but that this was not an attempt to cover up the truth but rather the result of the overzealousness of Bernard W. Nussbaum, who was then the



Park police who investigated Vincent Foster's death are sworn in at the Whitewater hearings in the Senate.

White House counsel and who seems to have had a tin ear for political sensibilities.

The Senators ran out of pertinent questions so quickly that on Wednesday they sought the opinions of Webster L. Hubbell, the former Associate Attorney General, about legal ethics — a field in which they presumably thought he had some expertise, given that he is facing 21 months in prison for bilking his law firm and clients.

The Waco hearings — conducted in the same room where the Judiciary Committee conducted its historic debate on the Nixon impeachment — seemed even further removed from the paramount issues that have been at the heart of some memorable investigations of years past.

At one especially tawdry point, more appropriate for "Oprah" than a Congressional committee, a 14-year-old girl testified in explicit terms about how she had been sexually abused when she was 10 years old by David Koresh, the Branch Davidian leader.

Platform for Partisans

Earlier, Representative Charles E. Schumer, a Brooklyn Democrat, waved an AK-47 assault weapon as photographers' motor-driven cameras clicked in machine-gun fashion. (Mr. Schumer was seated directly beneath a portrait of Peter W. Rodino Jr., who won over the nation with the statesman-like manner in which he conducted the Nixon impeachment proceedings.)

All this brought to mind an observation by

Sam J. Ervin Jr. when he was chairman of the Senate Watergate committee in 1973. "A legislative inquiry," he said, "can serve as the tool to pry open the barriers that hide governmental corruption." But, he went on to say, it can also "afford a platform for demagogues and the rankest partisans."

Sometimes, investigations offer a bit of both. That was the case in the Iran-contra affair. In 1987, Congress proved beyond a doubt that officials in the Reagan Administration had compromised fundamental constitutional principles. But the investigators seemed on television like bullies and blowhards and were never able to show that Ronald Reagan himself had abused his office. The public lost confidence in the investigators, and Republicans held the White

House in the 1988 election.

Whichever turns out to be the case for the Whitewater and Waco hearings, they are almost certainly just the beginning of a spate of investigations by the Republican Congress. Research by Congressional Quarterly found that the most intensive periods of Congressional investigations came in the last years of Ulysses S. Grant's Administration and in the years immediately following World War I and World War II. Each of these was a time, like now, when one party gained control of Congress after a long time in the minority.

For years, the Republicans who now run Congress have suffered from subpoena envy. Able to command the presence of witnesses and the production of documents,

Waco and Whitewater hearings have been partisan. But there's hope for more.

Democrats used their investigative authority to embarrass Republican Presidents from Eisenhower through Bush on issues ranging from foreign policy to organized crime, from campaign finances to cost overruns at the Pentagon.

The Republicans were always on the defensive. They have not controlled either house of Congress while a Democrat was in the White House since 1948 (when Richard M. Nixon first stepped on the national stage during the House Un-American Activities Committee's investigation of Alger Hiss).

Now, the tables are turned, and the Republicans are flexing their muscle. The Foster investigation may not produce fireworks, but it is only a beginning. Closer to next year's election, the Senate Whitewater investigation and a parallel inquiry by the House Banking Committee scheduled to begin this summer could raise embarrassing questions about President Clinton's finances and the way his Justice Department handled criminal matters involving his friends.

With the Waco hearings, the Republicans are serving notice: Clinton Administration officials can expect to be held publicly accountable under oath "every time" they stumble. That is the prerogative of the party that controls Congress.

Knocked Out in California

How Affirmative Action Got So Hard to Sell

By MICHAEL WINES

NOT so long ago, the arithmetic of American civil rights was kindergarten-simple: black people, at least most of them, were the oppressed class, and whites, a good many of them, were the oppressors. America added a and b, found the sum abhorrent, and in 1965 factored in a revolutionary new x. It was called affirmative action.

Voilà! Differential calculus. Today, we can all feel oppressed.

Maybe affirmative action is "good for America" and merely in need of fine-tuning, as President Clinton said in a rousing speech on Wednesday. Maybe — as Gov. Pete Wilson proclaimed the next day, when California's state university regents voted to wipe out all such preferences — affirmative action is "trampling individual rights" just to divvy up favors among a handful of chosen groups.

Maybe the truth lies in between. Whatever its flaws, 30 years of affirmative action span an era in which many minority groups have made strides toward equality.

But to millions, the defining equality of decades of preference in hiring, promotion, school admissions and life's other key steps is of an entirely different sort: a shared feeling that somebody is poaching their birthright.

It is an anger that used to be pretty much the sole preserve of black people, now turned into a rainbow of ill-suppressed grievances. So lately the mark of a bigot, it is now the ticket with which anyone can lay claim to a bigger share of the American pie.

Aggrieved at last; aggrieved at last; thank God Almighty, aggrieved at last!

21 Bills Later

So it is no accident that resentment of state-ordered preferences has become not just fashionable but politically smart. Governor Wilson, who signed into law 21 bills containing affirmative-action measures, has changed his mind just as illegal immigration is peaking as a California political issue. He also is seeking the Republican Presidential nomination.

So is Senator Bob Dole, a onetime supporter of affirmative action who now cites immutable moral principles to explain why he is against it. Even Mr. Clinton endorsed the concept only after a healthy period of public stewing, and after frowning reverse discrimination and quotas.

To be sure, one white male's excess is an Asian-American disabled woman's social justice. But like the newly opened freeway



that seems instantly clogged with bumper-to-bumper traffic, the American system of goals, set-asides and preferences has brought entire classes of previously unrecognized minority groups into the sunshine, ready to assume the rights and privileges the laws give them.

Recent years have seen claims of minority status by the morbidly overweight, who have sued for wider seats in theaters and promotions in jobs, and the homeless, who have sued for free public accommodations and services. A male flight attendant sued American Airlines last year, charging employment discrimination because the Dallas Cowboys football team accepted only female attendants on its flights.

A sixth-grade girl in Albany sued her school for sex discrimination, seeking protection from boys she said were harassing her and her friends. And the Senate recently saw the introduction of a "gender-equity" act aimed at stopping sexual hectoring and bias as early as kindergarten.

California's state Democratic Party has insured a diverse presence at the 1996 national convention by setting goals for its delegation: 26 percent Latino, 16 percent black, 10 percent gay or lesbian, 9 percent "Asian-American islander," and 1 percent American Indian.

"Don't get the impression that that leaves the rest for everybody else," said Bob Mul-

holland, a party adviser. "You don't add them up; the Latino could be gay or disabled." Though presumably not an Asian-American islander.

None of these claims occurs in a vacuum; each has a stake in a job, or a right, or a seat in a classroom claimed by someone else. It seemed easy to mediate these claims when only oppressed blacks and oppressor whites

Bob Dole and Pete Wilson supported racial preferences — until all those people climbed aboard.

were the combatants. When literally millions of people claim someone else's spot, it becomes much less so.

The result is the shredding of a national consensus — not on civil rights, which retain strong support in polls, but on the share of the burden that Joe and Jane Average feel they must bear to achieve it.

"It's like a scale in a meat shop," said James Q. Wilson, the scholar and political

scientist. If the butcher puts a thumb on the scale for most customers to give the poor widow a break, Mr. Wilson said, "people say, 'O.K., she deserves it.'"

"But now it seems like there's a big, heavy fist on the scale, and we're denying not a few people, and not on basis of merit, but thousands of people — all your kids, all your friends, all their neighbors."

And not just Mr. Average's neighbors, either; Mr. Wilson and another eminent social scientist, Seymour Martin Lipset, both suggest that resentment of affirmative action is strong because its effects have finally touched the people who set the national agenda.

They took issue in the late 1960's, when hardhat construction workers fought Federal orders forcing trade unions to recruit black craftsmen for work on Federal projects where crews used to be all-white. They disappeared when lower-class white neighborhoods erupted over busing orders.

Today, Mr. Wilson noted, women and minority groups are competing for managerial positions the elite once dominated and seats at universities that their sons and daughters covet. And in part because of affirmative action, they are losing a few.

"It's been brought home to millions of middle- and upper-class Americans, most of whom think of themselves as liberals on race issues," he said. "They know from

conversations in college dorms, and from their kids when they come home, that lots of decisions are being made that affect access to the top prizes in society on aspects other than merit."

The View From 1965

It looked different 30 years ago. President Johnson forged a national consensus on affirmative action by appealing to a sense of fairness and equal opportunity. "You do not take a person who, for years, has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bring him up to the starting line of a race and then say, 'You are free to compete with the others,'" he said in 1965.

And it was a Republican, Richard Nixon, who took affirmative action a step farther, in 1969, by setting hiring quotas in the construction industry.

Both men viewed their actions through a political lens. Mr. Nixon, Mr. Lipset said, hoped he could revive black support for what was, after all, the party of Lincoln. But only Mr. Johnson foresaw the political and class divisions that the party of Lincoln would seize upon decades later. "We have to press for them as a matter of right," the President said in a 1965 meeting at the White House. "But we also have to recognize that by doing so, we will destroy the Democratic Party."

Handwritten signature: J. Q. Wilson

The Mystery of New York, the Suddenly Safer City

Does hiring more police officers deter murder?

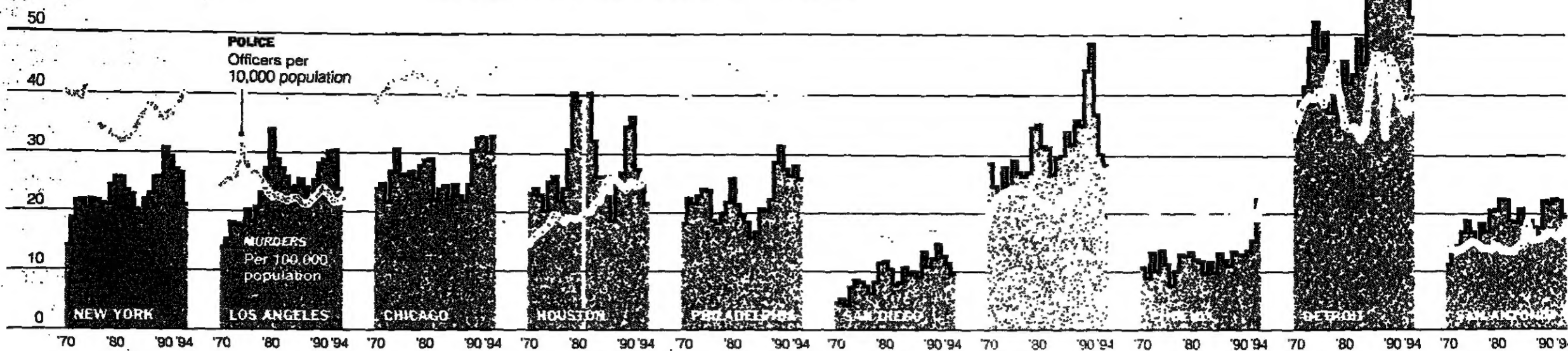
Only in New York does there appear to be a correlation between the sheer number of police officers and the worst crime — murder. If the correlation existed in other cities, the charts below would show the murder rate moving down while the ratio of police officers went up and vice versa.

When examining the 1990's statistics for the 10 largest cities in the United States (listed below in order of size), only New York and Houston saw the murder rate drop as the police force grew. But San Diego saw a decline in murders while their police force shrank. And Chicago had a record number of police officers

per 10,000 people, while the murder rate grew.

Over the past 25 years, San Diego and San Antonio have had similar numbers of police officers per capita, but San Antonio regularly had twice San Diego's murder rate.

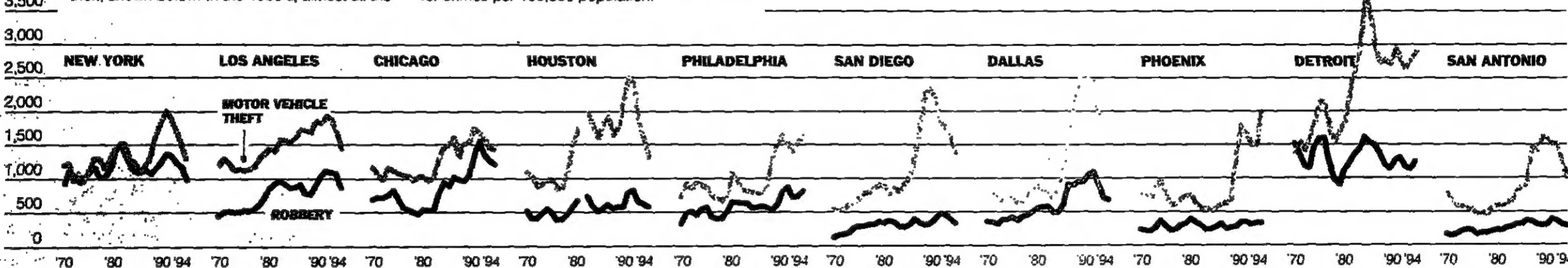
On the charts below, some years' figures were not available.



What about robbery or motor vehicle theft?

The lack of a correlation between the number of police officers and rates of crime extends to other crimes, like robbery and motor vehicle theft, shown below. In the 1990's, almost all the

cities have seen decreases in these crimes, with some achieving faster rates of decline than New York with smaller police forces. These figures are for crimes per 100,000 population.



Sources: F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reports; police departments of each city.

ANNE KRONIN/The New York Times

Continued from page 1

before they make their next move. The commissioner has advanced his predecessors' community policing policies by giving local precinct commanders wide latitude in creating their own anti-crime strategies.

Before Mr. Bratton took over the department, neighborhood officers were ordered not to make narcotics arrests out of fear they would be tempted into corruption. Few anti-gun and narcotics units worked nights or weekends, leaving criminals an open field to operate. That has changed, and arrests have climbed by more than 25 percent.

"I want to challenge the old idea that policing can't make a substantial impact on social change," Mr. Bratton said. "American policing has been swatting at mosquitoes for 20 years. In New York we've learned how to drain the swamp."

Nevertheless, those ducks Mr. Bratton promises to knock down keep quacking. And while they cannot explain why the drop in crime accelerated precisely at the time the new crime strategies took effect in the middle of last year, these theories offered by criminologists do suggest that something more than Mr. Bratton's innovations are contributing to the city's good fortunes.

THEORY The drop in New York's crime rate reflects a national trend.

While some medium-sized cities continue to record more crime, the nation as a whole, and big cities in particular, is seeing less. Baltimore, Cleveland, Houston, Jacksonville, Los Angeles, Memphis, Milwaukee, Nashville, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Antonio, San Diego and San Francisco all saw their murder rates drop by better than 10

percent last year. The 32 percent drop in Houston's murder rate for the first six months of this year was slightly better than New York's 31 percent slide, and Phoenix and Chicago were not too far behind.

"Different cities point to different reasons," said Marie Simonetti Rosen, publisher of Law Enforcement News. "Some say it's the impact of community policing, some say it's the impact of tougher jail sentences, some say it's because of special courts dealing with guns, domestic violence and drugs."

But New York's drop in virtually every category of crime is more sustained and steeper than any other major city's. While most of the cities that experienced drops in violent crimes last year were coming off a couple of years of rising murder and robbery rates, New York's drop of 12.3 percent in all felonies last year came as an acceleration of three straight years of gentle declines.

THEORY The crack-cocaine epidemic that fueled the crime wave has ebbed.

New York criminologists offer some strong, albeit anecdotal, evidence that crack smoking is going out of style among youths who grew up watching their neighborhoods ravaged by agitated users and pistol-toting sellers fighting for turf.

"The kids who are around the age of 18 have gravitated away from hard drugs, from both use and distribution," said Richard S. Curtis, an anthropologist at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan. "Crack has just played itself out." Mr. Curtis based his conclusions on interviews and focus groups including hundreds of New York City youths over the last two years.

"They were really disillusioned with what crack had done," he concluded, adding that the increasingly aggressive police work may have "sped up" the growing conclusion of inner city youths that drugs and crime do not pay.

In his own interviews with youths recently released from the city jail on Rikers Island, Mr. Fagan, the Columbia University criminologist, has arrived at similar findings. "There has been some cultural adaptation to the slaughter," he said.

Mr. Fagan has also concluded that crime is decreasing as heroin slowly replaces crack as the drug of choice in New York. "While crack is a stimulant, heroin is a depressant," he said. And because heroin is purer and cheaper today than during its last surge in the 1960's, he has concluded that heroin addicts are not committing as many robberies and burglaries as they did 30 years ago to support their habits.

The police department disputes such conclusions, noting that 78 percent of the people arrested in Manhattan in February tested positive for cocaine, while only 22 percent tested positive for heroin and other opiates.

THEORY Most of the adolescents who shot up New York over the last decade ended up behind bars or murdered in gang wars, while the total number of people in their prime crime years has fallen.

Criminologists note that the 55,000 felons imprisoned in New York State is about double the number locked up a decade ago. More than half come from the city, and about half of those have been in prison for less than five years. Figuring that each one of the newly imprisoned New Yorkers would commit five or six felonies in a year, that's a



Roby Washington/The New York Times

considerable number of murders, rapes and robberies prevented.

Another estimated 3,000 people involved in narcotics crimes have been killed over the last five years in New York.

But criminologists cannot explain how these factors could have come into play so suddenly the second half of last year, when New York's crime began falling so fast.

Perhaps the most popular theory, and the one most disdained by Mr. Bratton, argues that the crime rate is determined by the number of youths in society at any given time. At a news conference two weeks ago, Mr. Bratton disparaged the major proponent of demographic criminology, James Alan Fox of Northeastern University, as well as the journalists who go to him for his opinions.

"Most of the decline that has occurred would have occurred anyway," Mr. Fox said in an interview last week. "The baby boom generation, which comprises almost a third of the population, is getting older. They are middle-aged, and they are not nearly as aggressive and violent as they were when they were younger."

Mr. Bratton, backed by city demographers, rejects such thinking, noting that from 1990 to 1995 the city saw a decrease of only 6 to 7 percent in the number of people between the ages of 15 and 29, the age group that commits and is victimized by the vast majority of crimes.

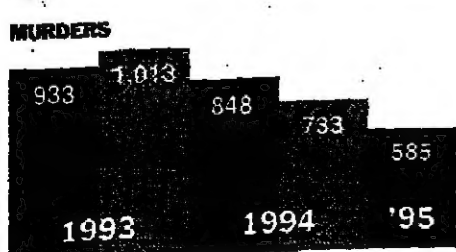
But those ducks are persistent.

"To resolve the researchers' questions, we need to know what is happening with crack markets, gun markets, juvenile violence, and comparing New York City police tactics with other cities," said Jeremy Travis, director of the National Institute of Justice, the Justice Department's research arm. "Understanding takes time."

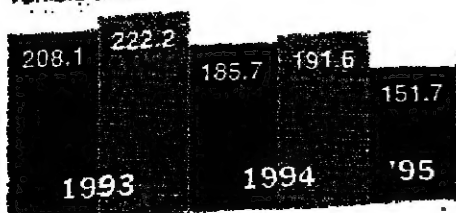
Was the drop in crime in New York City really so extraordinary?

Yes. There was a big drop in reported crime in the first half of 1995, compared to the same period in 1994, and this followed a drop from the second half of 1993 to the same period in 1994.

January - June July - December



ALL MAJOR CRIMES (in thousands) Totals of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

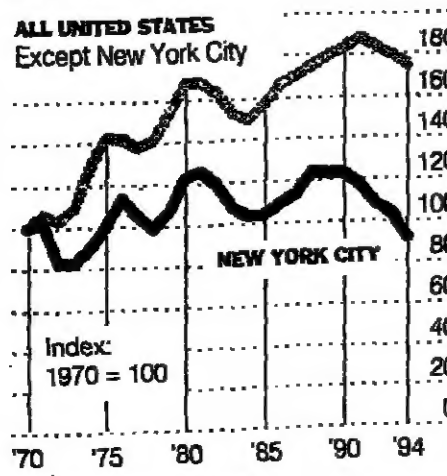


Source: New York City Police Department

Aren't the New York decreases just a statistical blip?

No. Over the past 25 years, crime in New York has increased less than it has nationwide. In fact, New Yorkers are less likely to be the victims of crime than they were in 1970.

Below is an index of total crimes each year — murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.



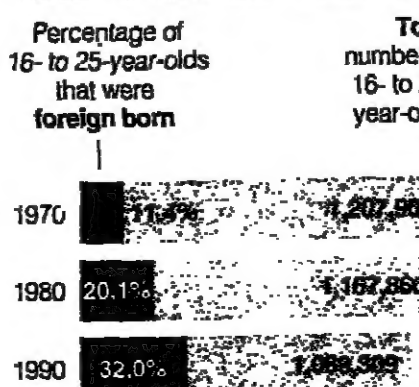
Source: F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reports

Do the demographics work for New York?

Yes. Crime generally increases with the teen-age and young adult population. New York's number of 16- to 25-year-olds has dropped, but the percentage of them who are immigrants has risen sharply.

Criminologists say that immigrants today are less likely to commit crimes because of stronger families and greater concerns with avoiding brushes with the law that could cause their family's immigration status to come under scrutiny. The population figures are from Census Bureau data.

CHANGES IN YOUNG-ADULT POPULATION



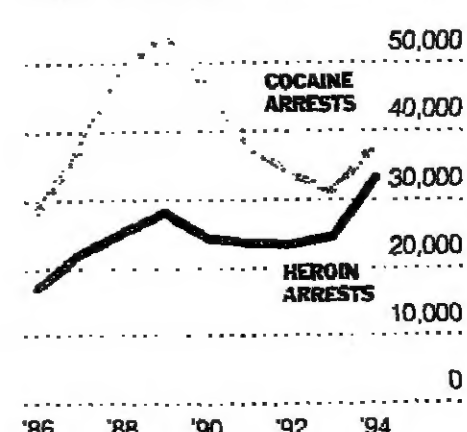
Source: Dr. Andrew A. Beveridge, of the sociology department at Queens College of the City of New York

What about drugs?

There seems to be a switch from cocaine to heroin use in New York City, as measured by emergency room visits, which were level for cocaine use in 1993, (the most recent year available) and were up for heroin use.

Cocaine makes users frantic, but heroin makes them sleepy. And heroin's street purity during the nine-year period shown below has increased from 34 to 61 percent, making it easier to get high for less money.

The arrests below are for drug possession or sales in New York City.



Source: New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

What about guns?

It is impossible to say how many guns are on the streets of New York City, but one measure is how many people caught committing minor crimes are armed.

The figures below are from arrests for entering the New York City subway system without paying the fare.

FARE BEATERS AND GUNS

1993	29,773	
One out of 438 arrested was carrying a loaded handgun.	0.228%	
1994	41,566	
One out of 904 arrested was carrying a loaded handgun.	0.111%	
1995	20,687	First six months
One out of 1,034 arrested was carrying a loaded handgun.	0.097%	

Source: New York City Police Department

The World

Chirac Dusts Off An 'Idea of France'

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

CARDINAL RICHELIEU, Talleyrand, and Charles de Gaulle were all masters of diplomatic leverage, multiplying French influence in the councils of the world and sometimes turning defeat into victory, skills the French admire in their leaders.

Jacques Chirac, an admirer of de Gaulle who was elected President a little more than two months ago, has clearly learned a lot from his predecessors.

He provoked international outrage last month by announcing a resumption of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Last week, he broke with decades of French ambivalence and accepted moral responsibility for the Vichy regime's deportation of tens of thousands of French Jews to German death camps during World War II.

What may have pleased the French most is that he put the country back in the center of European and world diplomacy by forthrightly denouncing Western policy in Bosnia as the modern-day equivalent of the sellout of Czechoslovakia in 1938 and demanding that Britain and the United States join France in sending ground forces into the United Nations "safe areas" in Bosnia to protect them against Bosnian Serb attack.

"Boldness, again boldness, and always boldness," said the 18th century French revolutionary Danton, and Mr. Chirac was not afraid to risk failure in making his proposals. In the end, they were not accepted. But they weren't quite rejected either, and Mr. Chirac could hold his head up.

While France is no longer the dominant power of Europe, as it was in the days of Louis XIV and Napoleon, under Mr. Chirac it has become the most dynamic. His aim is much the same as de Gaulle's was when he expressed "a certain idea of France" — one with a moral grandeur that has often been greater than reality.

France is one of the few countries in the Western world that still has huge military parades on its national day. This July 14, just after Mr. Chirac had made his stirring call for stronger military action in Bosnia, wave after wave of smartly uniformed French troops, including bearded Foreign Legionnaires in distinctive tan leather aprons, trooped down the Champs Elysées, as supersonic Mirage and Rafale fighters and bombers roared overhead — but all that military strength was not enough, not all by itself, to change the situation in Bosnia.

Careful Phrasing

Thus Mr. Chirac had to phrase his call carefully. France could not save Sarajevo or Gorazde all by itself, he said; it would need help from British soldiers, and American transport helicopters and aircraft. If Britain and the United States did not go along, he threatened, then France would call for withdrawal of the entire 39,000-strong United Nations peacekeeping force.

There was Gallic logic here, and plenty of shrewd Cartesian calculation. The French propositions put the United States on the spot. If Europe failed in Bosnia, he was saying, the United States would bear much of the blame. The United States, the French never tire of saying, has refused to send soldiers there, while France has lost 40.

These losses played hardly any role in the French election campaign. But every French patriotic breast suffered a pang of outrage in May when the Bosnian Serbs took peacekeepers hostage and handcuffed them to military targets so that United States and NATO warplanes would stop bombing them. "One can understand that soldiers can be wounded, or even killed, but one cannot allow soldiers to be humiliated," Mr. Chirac said, explaining his decision to send thousands more troops to Bosnia to prevent this sort of thing from happening again.

Death before dishonor, a French virtue celebrated in the Alexandrine verses of Cor-



Nancy Carpenter

neille and Racine, is a concept those Foreign Legionnaires coming down the avenue in solemn cadence on July 14 have lived by for decades, and 2,000 of them are now in Bosnia ready to live or die by it today.

The French are often puzzled, if not embittered, by the reluctance of Americans, with so much more power, to risk as much. Gradually, the reluctance is taking its toll. On the eve of a meeting with President Clinton last month, Mr. Chirac said he would not take the leader of the Western world to task. "I believe that the Atlantic Alliance has no leader," he said.

Any Walter Mitty-like thoughts that Mr. Chirac may have had that he could claim this position for himself were not realized at the international meeting on Bosnia in London on Friday, which ended with a vague but determined-sounding threat to respond with extensive air strikes if the Serbs attacked Gorazde. This might seem a way for the Americans to politely avoid any commitment to send helicopters and men soon, as the French had demanded, but the French pronounced themselves satisfied and took credit for putting backbone back into the

international community over Bosnia. (How much backbone is another question, of course, as it always has been in Bosnia; right away, questions arose about whether the threat can be carried out.)

Lip Service

France's aspirations may not be so bold as to lead the NATO alliance, but France has always aspired to lead a united Europe. De Gaulle, who kicked NATO headquarters out of France in 1966 and withdrew French troops from its military chain of command, did so because he didn't want Europe's defenses to depend on Americans. Now Mr. Chirac is resuming nuclear testing because he doesn't want France's nuclear deterrent or French national security to depend on them, or anybody else.

France has always given lip service to the idea of leading Europe through close partnership with Germany, but the Germans are miffed that the French President did not consult with them (or anybody else in Europe) about resuming the bomb tests.

The French, of course, saw no reason to

do so; Germany may be the most powerful country in Europe, but it is self-conscious and inhibited, and it is not a nuclear power. And as for European foreign policy, the first objective of the European Union when it proclaimed such a policy in 1991 was a united approach in the former Yugoslavia.

"In Europe, it is difficult for a single state to do anything, because our old nation-states are of relatively equal weight," said Anne-Marie Le Gloannec, a political scientist, in *The Figaro* last week. "During the period of the cold war, America had to become in a way a European state. Today, the United States doesn't want to lead any more."

That leaves the field, in the French view, to Mr. Chirac, who, having reasserted the French presence in the South Pacific by lifting the nuclear testing moratorium put in place by his predecessor, François Mitterrand, is now touring France's former domains in Africa. During a banquet in Morocco, Mr. Chirac's old friend King Hassan II offered this toast: "I ask you to stand up and honor our dear friend, the President of France, Jacques Mitterrand." As the French say, c'est la guerre.

Puppet Shows

Iron Fist Meets Rubber Face

By ALESSANDRA STANLEY

RUSSIANS have always loved a political joke, mostly because the punchline has always been illicit. Before 1917, people could be put in jail for publicly mocking the Czar. In Communist times, the slightest crack about party leaders landed people in Siberia. (Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, not usually known for his sense of humor, was sent to the Gulag for irreverently describing Stalin as "the mustached one," in a letter to a friend.)

Under Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika, the rules slackened a bit, and high-minded satire began slipping onto radio and television, but never anything as low-down and biting as the average Reagan skit on "Saturday Night Live."

Most Russians therefore were not entirely shocked last week when the Government moved against the popular satirical puppet show "Kukly," a weekly program modeled on Britain's "Spitting Image" and France's "Les Guignols de Leno." Unlike France or Britain, Russia does not have a tradition of indulging political satire. But even in Russia there was something comi-

Sure, there may be something comical about a crackdown on puppets, but in Russia it's not a funny joke.

cal about the state cracking down on inanimate rubber enemies.

The prosecutor general opened a criminal case against the creators of the show, which is aired on NTV, Russia's only nationwide independent station. The charge was that "the highest officials in the Government were portrayed in an insulting manner." It was the first time since Boris N. Yeltsin became president that a law prohibiting insults of high officials was invoked against a television show.

"Kukly" (the word means "puppets") first aired a year ago, and it mercilessly tweaks the authorities on such issues as privatization and the fall of the ruble. The life-size puppets are modeled on various political figures, including President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin.

The show often falls back on Russian classics to make a contemporary point. An episode about the Chechen war, which ran in January when the Russian invasion of Chechnya was at its most brutal, featured puppets dressed as 19th century characters from Lermontov's novel "Hero of Our Time," which describes Russia's efforts to conquer the fierce warriors of the Caucasus. The writers used Lermontov's text for dialogue about the current war in Chechnya.

On "Kukly," the digs are rarely personal — there are no send-ups of the private lives or family foibles of the nation's leaders. But just the sight of puppet caricatures of Mr. Yeltsin or his unpopular Minister of Defense, Pavel Grachev, bobbing, weaving, and talking in vulgar street slang, is titillating enough for many viewers.

The show that caught the attention of the



Last week, the Yeltsin puppet from "Kukly" learned the limits of his power.

prosecutor general aired on July 8th, and used Maxim Gorky's play "The Lower Depths" as the background for a skit on the new minimum wage of \$10.00 a month. It portrayed Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin and others as slothhouse bums, drunkenly rummaging through garbage and singing old Soviet patriotic songs that, for Russians, recall Stalinist times.

The whiff of alcohol alone may have offended official viewers. Mr. Yeltsin's drinking, which has gotten sufficiently out of hand on numerous public occasions to generate news stories abroad, is handled quite gingerly in the mainstream Russian press. Columnists deplore the President's rowdy "behavior" without directly mentioning the root cause.

Warning: Election Ahead

But few in Russia really believed that the prosecutor general acted solely out of concern for Mr. Yeltsin's sensibilities. Igor Malashenko, the president of NTV, insisted the case was a ploy to punish the station for its aggressive

coverage of the war in Chechnya. He and others claimed that the action was a warning that was linked to the upcoming election campaign. Mr. Malashenko said he did not expect the case to ever get to court, and said the producers planned to run another episode of "Kukly," a rerun, to test the waters.

Action and Reaction

Officials of the state-controlled television network, ORT, agree that the Government wants to rein in the airwaves as the election campaign approaches. "Definitely, with the election campaign in the offing, television has been subject to more attention from the authorities," said Aleksei Pushkov, director of public affairs at ORT.

"The real question is whether the authorities plan to use a velvet glove or an iron fist," he added. Mr. Pushkov said he found the July 8th Kukly show offensive, but noted that the Government's reaction to it was equally deplorable. "The Kukly case — this was an iron fist."

Does Japan Need Its Scary Monster?

Continued from page 1

in the United States, a Godzilla film has been aired on some television station every week since 1960. In the last nine months alone, he said, he sold three million Godzilla toys.

But a monster regarded in this country as the King of Camp, a temperamental creature in a puffy latex suit, was born in Japan as anything but a hoot for the late-show crowd. Not only is the name pronounced differently — in Japanese it is Gōjira, which sounds like a cross between the words for gorilla, "gori," and whale, "kujira" — but the films have a distinct political, and at times nationalistic, edge.

In fact, Godzilla was a product of one of the most artistically and politically vibrant periods in postwar Japanese history. Toho, which excelled at propaganda movies during the war, had transformed itself into a champion of democracy and produced some of the greatest films of Japan's golden age of cinema.

The special effects, ridiculously hokey to someone familiar with the computer-generated dinosaurs in "Jurassic Park," were state of the art in the 1950's. And Godzilla's star, Takashi Shimura, had just appeared in another Toho film, Akira Kurosawa's classic "Seven Samurai."

Resentment Released

In 1954, Japan was still poor and deeply scarred by World War II. Many Japanese hated the militarists who had pushed them into the war, but they also resented the outsiders, the American soldiers, who had occupied their country and then dragged them into the cold war. And then there was the punishment that only Japan had suffered — the atomic bombing of two heavily populated cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

During the early 1950's, an event focused this anger. A Japanese fishing vessel had strayed too close to Bikini atoll in the South Pacific dur-

ing the explosion of an American nuclear bomb, and a fisherman had subsequently died from the radiation. The people wanted to lash out at what they saw as the brutality of the nuclear age. But how?

Enter the puffy latex monster.

Many studios were making anti-war films at the time, but they were generally earnest and, Mr. Sato said, just too pacifist. "Most of the anti-war films were anti-aggression and anti-violence," said Mr. Sato. "But because Godzilla was not completely serious, it was actually more successful in exploring Japanese fears of war and destruction. There's a sort of morbid fascination with the destruction in those movies. You couldn't explore that side to people's feelings in the serious movies."

Those Big Feet

Godzilla had another subversive quality that endeared him to audiences. Not only was he a victim of the nuclear scourge — as the Japanese saw themselves — but he had a mischievous way of stomping on the Japanese establishment, including the parliament, the Diet.

"The first time people saw the Diet building being crushed, it must have been fun," said Kyoko Hirano, the author of a book on early postwar cinema, "Mr. Smith Goes to Tokyo." "Those big feet just destroyed it completely. It released some important feelings in people."

It was noted, too, that in the movie the American troops stationed in Japan, supposedly to protect the country from external threats, offered no help warding off the monster.

Indeed, in many of the films America is a veiled menace. In 1962, Godzilla squared off against King Kong. (In the original, Godzilla wipes him out, but in the film distributed here, King Kong wins.) Later, Godzilla did battle with King Ghidorah, a beast at the service of time travelers from the future, whose aim is to force Japan to buy foreign computers. Sound familiar?

The "last" Godzilla film, "Godzilla vs. Destroyer," to be released in Japan in December, has him suffering a sort of nuclear flu, losing his way and leveling Hong Kong, which is, not surprisingly, part of the thriving economy of a new threat to Japan, China. But then, in an act of self-sacrifice, Godzilla terminates himself in Tokyo Bay with an enormous nuclear "Kaboom!"

Now it's curtains for Godzilla. Sure it is.



July 23, 1995

The G.O.P Welcomes Murdoch to Washington

By EDMUND L. ANDREWS

A week from Tuesday, Rupert Murdoch is scheduled to appear before the House ethics committee, where he will be grilled by Democrats about his company's lucrative book deal with the Republican House Speaker, Newt Gingrich. Over on the House floor that week, perhaps even that same day, Republican lawmakers will be trying to push through a major telecommunications bill that would, among other things, let the media baron buy still more television stations and newspapers in the United States.

In one sense, this is all in a week's notoriety for Mr. Murdoch — a man fiercely admired by some as a brilliant entrepreneur and just as fiercely reviled by others as a harsh and domineering mogul. But the simple fact of this double-barreled, center-stage presence in Congress also represents a new phase in a remarkable career: After years as an outsider in the capital's whirl of money and politics, Mr. Murdoch has come to Washington.

It's not that he has become an avid habitué of the capital's dinner-party circuit, the latest darling of the conservative establishment. Still, in his characteristically aloof way, Mr. Murdoch and his Australia-based company, the News Corporation, have become increasingly visible, and influential, in this new Republican world.

"News Corporation is dramatically more active here than it was a few years ago," said Tim Boggs, Time Warner's top lobbyist in Washington.

"A lot of it reflects the growing complexity of the company and its business plan, with interests in so many different areas."

Mr. Murdoch's efforts in Washington come at a crucial time for his company's expansionist ambitions. As ever, though, his interests and intentions are far from one-dimensional — a mix of the financial, the political and the personal. He has ridden into town, so to speak, on a Republican deregulatory tide, and the welcome, after all those years in the wilderness, has been warm indeed. "It's been like pushing on an open door," said Peggy Binzel, Mr. Murdoch's Congressional lobbyist.

Though he didn't show up in person, Mr. Murdoch contributed \$100,000 as one of nine honorary chairmen of a fund-raising dinner last month for House Republicans. Next month, he will sponsor a dinner for Senator Larry Pressler, the South Dakota Republican who heads the Commerce Committee.

He has invested \$3 million to underwrite a new conservative weekly magazine in Washington called *The Standard*. The magazine, which should hit the stands shortly after Labor Day, will be edited by William Kristol, who was one of former Vice President Dan Quayle's top advisers and is considered one of the Republican Party's leading intellectual lights.

And though Mr. Murdoch's patronage of *The Standard* is unlikely to make him much money, it will place him in a role that he clearly savors: Like *The New York Post*, which is often stridently conservative, it will give him a piece of the political debate in one of the media capitals of the world.

But it is on the legislative and regulatory fronts where Mr. Murdoch has been most active, and where he has the most to gain.

To be sure, every segment of the tightly regulated communications industry lobbies and spends heavily on political contributions. Dollar for dollar, Mr. Murdoch's efforts pale when compared with those of the local and long-distance telephone companies as they struggle to enter each other's markets.

Yet Mr. Murdoch would be a big winner if Congress, as is expected, passes a telecommunications bill eliminating most of the rules that restrict a company from owning more than 12 television stations. To that end, his lobbyist, Ms. Binzel, organized a coalition with ABC, NBC, CBS and The Tribune Company that successfully persuaded the Senate to eliminate the numerical limits as long as a company's stations do not reach more than 35 percent of the population. The House version would also end prohibitions against owning a television station and a newspaper in the same city.

In an interview from Australia, where he has been holding a month-long management retreat, Mr. Murdoch said he was not seeking any special preferences. "We believe in deregulation whether it hurts us or helps us and we've been absolutely consistent about that. Deregulation is in the public interest."

On the regulatory side, Mr. Murdoch fended off efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to strictly enforce foreign ownership limits on his company. Those limits would have required the News Corporation to reduce its equity in its TV stations from 99 percent to 20 percent. Meantime, largely unnoticed — except by his industry rivals — Mr. Murdoch has successfully exploited peculiar features of the ownership rules to acquire 20 to 25 percent ownership stakes in stations and extend his reach to roughly 35 percent of the nation's population.

Preston Padden, the News Corporation's head of Government affairs, says those who look for a "grand plan" in Mr. Murdoch's Washington activities will be disappointed. "There is no strategic planning group, no floor of M.B.A.'s," he said. "It's Rupert waking up earlier than his competition with eight great ideas before breakfast."

Still, the deregulation of broadcast ownership seems to cut to the heart of Mr. Murdoch's ambitions. For while Mr. Murdoch's global empire includes newspapers, the Twentieth Century Fox studio, book publishers and stakes in broadcasting satellites in Europe and Asia, the biggest profits are coming from American television stations.

"America is very much the basis of News Corporation's activities," Mr. Murdoch said. And that means television stations. "Networks do not make a lot of money, but the stations they own do," he said. "If you look at Capital Cities/ABC, the stations make about four times as much money as the network."

There are those, many of them Democrats, who say that in this new political climate, Mr. Murdoch has become too involved — most notably in his \$4.5 million book deal with Mr. Gingrich, the Georgia Republican. Mr. Murdoch met with Mr. Gingrich several weeks before the book contract was signed, and acknowledged discussing his battle with the F.C.C. over foreign ownership rules. But he has vehemently denied trying to enlist Mr. Gingrich's support and said his company did not lobby in Congress on that issue at all.

Mr. Murdoch has shown scant interest in windy debates about the "information highway," and has testified at almost none of the scores of Congressional hearings on communications policy during the last few years.

In fact, he said his company had played no role at all on the most important segments of the telecommunications bill, which is primarily aimed at letting local telephone, long-distance companies and cable television networks enter one another's markets.

And he actually parted ways with other over-the-air broadcasters in recent months, who have been lobbying Congress for legislation to prevent cable television operators from buying their channels when they offer services with more than 100 video services.

But the News Corporation was fe-



Reporters thronged Rupert Murdoch in May before an F.C.C. meeting.

rocious and successful in fighting the F.C.C. on complaints that the company violated rules that forbid a foreign company from owning more than 20 percent of an American television station.

In April, the F.C.C.'s staff circulated a confidential draft order that would have forced the company to reduce its equity in the stations to 20 percent and would have fined it \$500,000. "We can think of few circumstances that could be more intuitively contrary to the Congressional interest in safeguarding national security," the draft order read. Though it gave Mr. Murdoch a chance to show that an exception to the rules would be in the public interest, the draft order concluded that an exception "is inconsistent with the public interest in this case."

After news organizations reported about the draft order, company executives said that a restructuring would impose hundreds of millions of dollars in tax liabilities. The company had already deluged the agency with legal briefs, along with testimonials from programmers and stations that had signed up as Fox network affiliates. The company had even persuaded several former F.C.C. officials to recant statements that they had not understood Fox's ownership structure at the time the company's licenses were approved.

Within the F.C.C., a majority of the agency's five commissioners drastically revised the original recommendation. Led by Commissioner James Quello, a Democrat who argued that the News Corporation had greatly enhanced the public interest by launching a fourth national television network, the final order backed away from explicit demands for restructuring or fines and three of the commissioners said that Fox had enhanced the public interest.

Meantime, in the last 18 months, Fox television stations have signed deals to acquire stakes of 20 to 25 percent in 17 stations. All told, these stations reach about 35 percent of the population — a wider reach than ABC, NBC or CBS have with their company-owned stations.

"He has pioneered creative ownership relationships and taken advantage of F.C.C. rules to become the No. 1 stakeholder in American television stations," said Gerald Waldron, a lawyer for affiliates of ABC, NBC and CBS.

Yet, despite loud protests by both NBC and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which objected on grounds that Mr. Murdoch's efforts were preventing minorities from gaining ownership of television stations, those stations will not be counted against the

current limit of 12 stations. That is because the F.C.C.'s arcane rules allow a company to own as much as 49 percent of a station, without it being counted against ownership limits, if a single company owns the other 51 percent.

Mr. Murdoch supports eliminating rules that prohibit companies from owning a newspaper and a television station in one market. But he said he was unsure about the wisdom of buying more papers.

"I love newspapers and I would love to have one or two more," he said. "But I don't know if I could justify it economically to my shareholders. At the moment, the newspapers are about to go into a period of extreme suffering because of high paper prices and it's likely to last for a long time."

Mr. Murdoch said that even he is unsure what the company will do next. He recently made a multi-billion-dollar offer to acquire the extensive television holdings of Italy's Fininvest, owned by Silvio Berlusconi. Mr. Murdoch was rebuffed, which leaves him scouring the globe once again.

Broadly, however, he seems intent on expanding the amount of entertainment and information his company produces and then finding new channels of distribution. The Fox television stations constitute the foundation of his American operations. In Europe, Mr. Murdoch is

beaming television programming to homes by satellite over British Sky Broadcasting. In Asia, News Corporation owns a 63 percent stake in Star TV, a direct broadcast satellite that covers much of the continent.

Beyond his immediate business interests, he seems determined to carve out a role in the broader political debate. And that, some say, might even strain his relations with politicians.

"If he was simply acting to maximize profit, he would have shied away from a controversial magazine like *The Standard* because it could actually hurt his relations with some politicians," said Mr. Kristol. "We've made it clear we are going to be critical and that we'll go after Republicans too."

One longtime business acquaintance said that Mr. Murdoch runs the risk of alienating executives within the entertainment industry, who tend to be centrist Democrats.

"It's never been a secret that Murdoch is conservative," said Barry Diller, who started the Fox Television Network for Mr. Murdoch. "But if he continues to unshackle that harsh conservatism, it will impose some operational difficulties. Extreme political views, whether liberal or conservative, particularly with a broadcasting base, make a lot of people exceedingly nervous — both those you work with and those in government."

Ownership Limits a Problem? Just Change the Definition

FEDERAL regulations prohibit a company from owning more than 12 television stations in the United States, but Rupert Murdoch has masterfully blurred the definition of ownership.

Mr. Murdoch's Fox Television Stations Inc., which now owns 11 stations and has signed an agreement to buy one more, has already bumped against the ceiling. But it has capitalized on a quirk in the rules to acquire stakes of 20 or 25 percent in 17 other stations that together cover more than 10 percent of the national population.

Consider the case of WLUK, Channel 2 in Green Bay, Wis. The station was acquired earlier this year by a company called Savoy-Fox, a business in which Fox owns a 25 percent stake and whose president, Thomas Herwitz, was general manager of Fox's Washington television station from 1989 to 1993.

Under its agreement with Savoy-

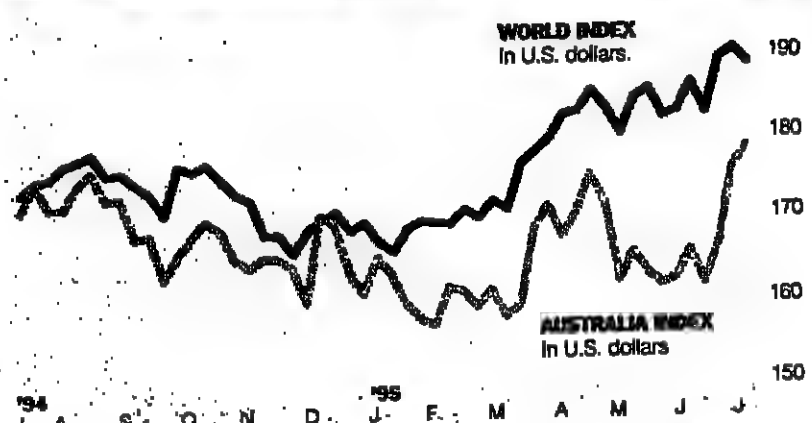
Fox, moreover, Mr. Murdoch's company has options to increase its 25 percent stake of nonvoting stock to 50 percent and to convert those shares into voting stock. Meanwhile, the station will be an affiliate of the Fox Television Network.

The Federal Communications Commission approved the takeover of WLUK in April, but not without controversy. One of the agency's five commissioners, Susan Ness, said the deal clearly violated the spirit of the ownership restrictions.

"Considering the entire web of relationships, it stretches the imagination to believe that the potential for influence does not exist," Ms. Ness said in a statement at the time of the decision.

Savoy-Fox is awaiting approval to acquire three other stations, but the F.C.C. has been scrutinizing those deals closely and has yet to make a decision. EDMUND L. ANDREWS

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indexes are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE		IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.
Australia	180.60	1.5	1	5.2	20	3.87	163.29	11.0	-4.4
Austria	195.48	-1.3	17	7.0	19	1.26	140.76	-4.4	5.0
Belgium	197.31	-0.9	11	17.1	7	3.76	138.82	-6.9	-
Brazil	137.87	-4.6	24	-15.5	25	1.42	236.81	-6.9	-
Britain	220.27	-0.5	7	13.1	15	4.12	204.92	11.0	-
Canada	147.33	-1.6	18	13.9	11	2.46	144.96	10.3	-
Denmark	283.85	0.3	5	12.7	16	1.53	208.40	-	-
Finland	249.69	-4.8	25	34.3	1	1.44	221.63	19.8	-
France	186.03	-1.2	16	13.7	12	3.11	140.57	2.7	-
Germany	164.67	0.6	2	14.9	10	2.00	118.70	2.8	-
Hong Kong	369.08	-3.1	22	13.2	14	3.74	366.82	13.2	-
Ireland	239.49	-0.6	9	16.1	8	3.48	205.71	9.3	-
Italy	78.22	0.6	3	3.9	21	1.63	93.58	2.6	-
Japan	150.37	-0.9	10	-4.2	24	0.89	84.30	-14.8	-
Malaysia	544.93	-1.7	19	13.7	13	1.53	513.87	9.0	-
Mexico	1,182.79	-3.4	23	-16.5	26	1.76	7,894.97	3.5	-
Netherlands	259.33	0.3	4	19.6	5	3.46	183.90	7.1	-
New Zealand	83.73	-1.2	15	18.8	6	4.49	85.83	12.6	-
Norway	236.75	-2.0	20	11.1	17	2.13	198.22	1.3	-
Singapore	387.30	-2.0	21	3.8	22	1.75	249.70	-8.6	-
South Africa	344.37	-0.2	6	2.3	23	4.10	274.19	-	-
Spain	152.33	-1.1	13	15.4	9	4.04	137.61	4.6	-
Sweden	283.04	-1.1	14	22.5	2	1.99	299.99	17.9	-
Switzerland	201.64	-0.5	8	22.1	3	1.83	144.50	7.8	-
Thailand	172.96	-5.6	26	9.4	18	2.56	166.31	7.9	-
United States	225.96	-1.0	12	20.3	4	2.56	225.96	20.3	-

COMPOSITE INDICES		IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.
Europe	194.30	-0.4	15.0	3.09	161.48	7.2	-	-	-
Pacific Basin	160.97	-1.0	-2.0	1.28	95.68	-11.4	-	-	-
Europe/Pacific	174.76	-0.7	5.2	2.11	120.33	-3.6	-	-	-
World	190.88	-0.9	10.3	2.31	153.45	4.6	-	-	-

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close.
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CURRENCIES

Country	Currency	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japan	Yen per U.S. \$	89.52	87.85	+0.76	98.95
Germany	Marks per U.S. \$	1.3856	1.3903	-0.34	1.5985
Canada	Canadian \$ per U.S. \$	1.3600	1.3590	+0.15	1.3722
Britain	U.S. \$ per British pound	1.5960	1.5955	+0.03	1.5275

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

July 17-21: High-Flying Stocks and Bonds Tumble

PRICES	
DOMESTIC EQUITIES	
Broad market	Down 1.12%
S. & P. 500 index	553.82
Blue chips	Down 1.43%
Dow 30 industrials	4,641.55
Small capitalization	Down 1.48%
Russell 2000 index	290.53

DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries	Down 1.83%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	177.59
Municipals	Down 2.44%
Bond Buyer Index	113.47
Corporates	Down 1.82%
Merrill Lynch Master index	754.89

AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks	Down 0.45%
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	194.30
Asian stocks	Down 0.99%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	160.97
Gold	Down 0.77%
New York cash price	\$386.60

Foreign stock indexes are shown in dollar terms.

YIELDS

BONDS	
Long bonds	6.96%
30-year Treasuries	Up 36 basis pts.
Short bonds	5.97%
2-year Treasuries	Up 29 basis pts.
Municipals	6.21%
Bond Buyer index	Up 13 basis pts.

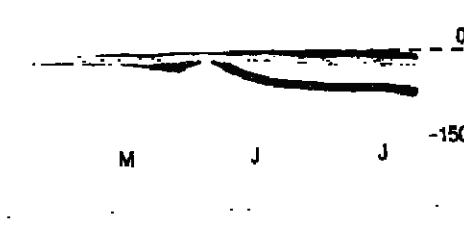
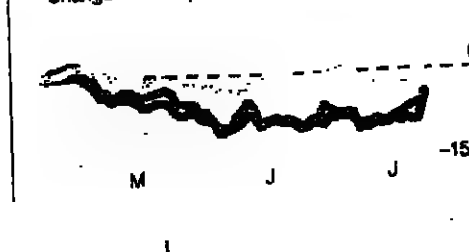
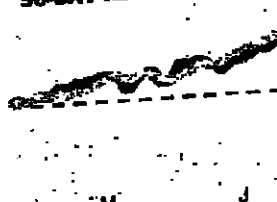
In basis points: 100 basis points = 1 percentage point.

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds	5.34%
Bank fund average	Down 8 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	5.12%
1-year small savers	Down 3 basis pts.
Stocks	2.51%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Up 5 b.p.

Change in basis points

90-DAY RELATIVE TREND



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Whitewater: New Ground

It is comforting to learn that after the suicide of Vincent Foster, the troubled deputy counsel to President Clinton, someone in the Government recognized that the White House was contaminating the investigation and had the integrity to say so.

If the Senate's Whitewater committee were merely plowing old ground, as the Administration claims, then it would not be turning up just this sort of valuable new information. This is stuff that was buried in secrecy and almost covered over by last summer's easygoing hearings run by the President's party. It may or may not lead to legal charges, but there is no question about the public value of exposing official bungling and lying.

Two years ago yesterday, and two days after Mr. Foster's death, Deputy Attorney General Philip Heymann told Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel, that he was "messing this up very badly" and "making a terrible mistake" by keeping Justice Department lawyers from looking at papers in Mr. Foster's office.

If the President's lawyer and the White House staff had taken a reasonable approach to securing and preserving evidence, these Republican-led hearings would have been unnecessary. Chairman Alfonse D'Amato, who has so far curbed his partisanship, has strong reason to keep pressing the inquiry in a dignified but insistent way.

Already, the hearings have produced significant new glimpses of what was really going on. The gathering record shows Mr. Foster brooding over his office's ham-handed treatment of the White House travel office, which the President's staff treated as a patronage plum for friends of the Clintons. It also shows with renewed clarity an interference with the work of the Park Police that was so persistent and egregious that it drew questions not only from Justice Department lawyers but even from such stout Clinton supporters as Webster Hubbell.

Mr. Gingrich's World

House Speaker Newt Gingrich's views on international affairs have been making quite a splash recently. Two weeks ago, on "Face the Nation," he breezily suggested that the United States overturn two decades of China policy and recognize Taiwan. Then he said he did not mean it.

Never mind. He was inviting further attention to his foreign policy ideas, all the while protesting that he had not really had enough time to polish his thoughts. Profiled on the front page of last Tuesday's Times, Mr. Gingrich reminded readers of his rapid rise from a west Georgia assistant professorship to the global stage. What with most of his attention on domestic affairs these days, he freely acknowledged that when it comes to foreign policy he still has a lot to learn.

Meanwhile, though, he still had a lot to say. That same afternoon the Speaker presented a major foreign policy address to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, one of Washington's most prominent foreign policy think tanks.

So what gives here? Mr. Gingrich remains unschooled in an embarrassing array of foreign policy particulars. But this academic turned politician from suburban Atlanta is neither an intellectual lightweight nor a blinkered provincial. He is a student and former teacher of history, remarkably well read, and has been holding forth publicly on foreign policy issues as well as domestic ones during a 20-year national political career.

Some of what he has to say about America's role in the world deserves to be taken seriously, and not just because he is the most powerful Speaker of the House in three decades. Some of his other pronouncements, as the Taiwan episode illustrates, are best ignored.

Mr. Gingrich's approach to the world combines a careful and intelligent reading of recent American and world history with a half-baked and sometimes wacky futurism. There is no lack of what George

The former Mr. Hubbell, Mrs. Clinton's former law partner and then a top Justice Department official, corrected the Clinton record in other ways. For example, the Clinton campaign asserted in 1992 that Hillary Rodham Clinton did not bring the Clintons' real-estate partner, Jim McDougal, and his failing Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan to the Rose Law Firm as clients. Mr. Hubbell testified that Mrs. Clinton did bring in Mr. McDougal as a client.

Mr. Hubbell also testified that he personally held the much-traveled Whitewater real estate records in 1992 and 1993. This further expands the opportunities for documents to have been compromised even before the White House staff rummaged through them in Mr. Foster's office and later placed them in a closet in the Clintons' White House quarters.

This means the committee has a right to be both skeptical and thorough in dealing with the White House's extensive deletions, or redactions, in the documents submitted so far. The opportunities for destruction or alteration of records have been more extensive than expected. Indeed, it is doubtful that a complete, reliable paper record can ever be reconstructed. But the committee has a right and obligation to try.

As things now stand, the committee's top lawyers, Michael Chertoff for the Republicans and Richard Ben-Veniste for the Democrats, are meeting with White House lawyers to see that the redactions are appropriate and that the White House has not deleted damaging material. Lawyers for both sides can confer over the documents and conduct a review that will reassure the committee without compromising executive privilege. But the committee and its lawyers have to be satisfied. The accuracy of the redactions is not something Mr. D'Amato and his committee can be expected to take on faith. We have learned too much for that.

Bush used to refer to as the "vision thing." But sometimes Professor Gingrich's vision conflicts with Speaker Gingrich's political performance.

He rightly notes, for example, that America's diplomatic institutions have fallen behind the realities of the information age. But while he waxes enthusiastic about new technological possibilities and ambitious cultural interchanges, his House Republican troops have been deeply slashing the budgets that might turn these ideas into reality.

Sometimes Mr. Gingrich even seems at war with himself. He speaks appealingly of the need to set modest objectives. He says we should not make such a big deal over day-to-day tactical setbacks. He makes much of the necessity for the United States to work in cooperative partnership with other countries and to actually listen to the concerns of its allies.

But his own diplomatic style is as assertive and confrontational as his political behavior. In the past week alone, he not only called for overturning the existing basis of United States-China relations but urged a massive, American-led military intervention in Bosnia. Did he mean either one?

Fortunately, Mr. Gingrich's instincts are constructive on most of the biggest issues, and not incompatible with President Clinton's. The Speaker is a convinced internationalist and free trader who believes that American leadership is vital to world peace, prosperity and democracy. He is confident that an America with its domestic house in order can compete successfully with any nation. He has supported aid to Russia and to Mexico and would rapidly expand existing free trade agreements.

If he could rally House Republicans to these causes as he has to domestic themes in the Contract With America, he might help rescue American foreign policy from the shallow partisanship that has afflicted it since Republican majorities took over both houses of Congress this year.

committed to an American version, combined with a 25-screen movie complex belonging to the American Multi-Cinemas chain. Altogether, this will be a \$150 million project. A fourth project, restoring a theater for young people's productions, has been under way for some time and is nearly completed.

Tentative plans for a \$300 million hotel and entertainment complex at one end of the block still need financing. Plans for the construction of four office towers at the other end — originally the key to the entire development plan — are on hold until the real estate market is strong enough to support them. Still another flashy scheme announced in recent days would create one huge theater by combining two smaller ones.

The New York Times, based only a block away on 43d Street, has an obvious interest in the success of the overall plan to resurrect the area. (Times Square was Longacre Square before the newspaper came along.) But the greater significance of the plan is revitalization of a vital sector of the city — the theater district, a magnet for visitors and New Yorkers alike and for the creative talent that produces the entertainment they come to see. The tiff elements of this plan still need a lot of work. But with some solid elements in place now, the Rialto seems well on its way to revival.

We Can't Afford Luxury of Financing the Arts

To the Editor:

The logic in "Legislators Against the Arts" (editorial, July 19) seems convoluted. On one hand you insist that because our constituencies are dependent on the arts, we should be held accountable for voting to phase out the National Endowment for the Arts, but on the other hand you rightly point out that the "arts in New York will not, of course, die without Federal support."

After years of running astronomical debts, Congress, now under new management, is committed to setting priorities and living within our means. No one said the choices would be easy, yet they must be addressed. All New York G.O.P. Congressional representatives voted to phase the arts agency out rather than cut it immediately, so that the arts community would have time to build a private endowment — free of the cultural, political and financial strings inherent with government funding.

Compromise is never pretty, a fact that the "upstate moderates" who voted with their downstate colleagues understand. We must now govern during a time when luxuries are not afforded, and therefore what our constituents are more likely to remember come election time is that we have ended the practice of mortgaging away our children's future.

SUSAN MOLINARI, PETER KING
DAN FRISA, MIKE FORBES
Washington, July 19, 1995
The writers are New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Republicans in the House of Representatives.

Friends and Foes

To the Editor:

With all the political maneuvering last week in the House of Representatives, it was difficult to identify arts supporters from opponents.

In "Legislators Against the Arts" (editorial, July 19), you emphasize the importance of the arts and the National Endowment for the Arts to New York State and our nation as a whole, but were inaccurate in lumping together all of New York's Republican representatives as opponents of Federal arts funding.

You label as anti-endowment two representatives, Amo Houghton and

Sherwood Boehlert, whom the arts community counts among its best friends. Both Representatives Rick Lazio and Michael Forbes also have cast positive votes.

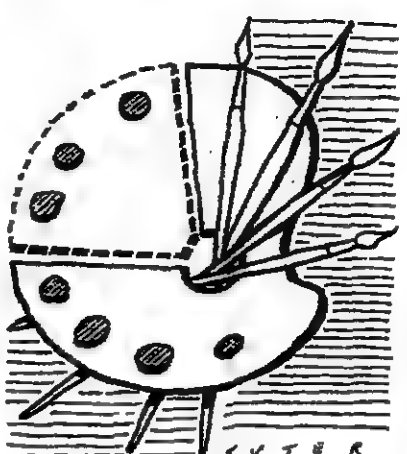
You should target strong criticism at those New York representatives who meet the anti-art and anti-New York label: Representatives Dan Frisa, Peter King, Bill Paxton, Gerald Solomon and Susan Molinari. The last three are part of the House Republican leadership and could have made a positive difference.

How wrong these representatives are! They still have the opportunity to change their positions. We urge them to do so. ROCHE SCHULFER
Chairman, American Arts Alliance
Washington, July 20, 1995

Upstate Benefits Too

To the Editor:

"Legislators Against the Arts" (editorial, July 19) accuses me of "joining the anti-arts swing" in Congress. You then go on to forgive me, saying, in effect, that the arts do not matter that much in upstate New York. You are wrong on both counts.



Throughout my 12 years in Congress, I have been a vocal supporter of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. My support has continued and has been reported in your paper. In the recent debate in the House, I voted against amendments to cut funding for the endowments. What I did not do was vote against

an entire bill appropriating more than \$14 billion because of my objection to its provision on the endowments. No one can reasonably interpret my vote for that bill — which funds everything from national parks to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve — as an endorsement of plans to abolish the endowments. I hope that the Senate compromise you outline will prevail in the end.

Upstate New York — like the nation — does indeed benefit greatly from a vibrant artistic community. Everyone from schoolchildren, whose education is enriched, to the tourist industry, which is aided by such industry, as the Glimmerglass Opera, is better off because the endowments exist. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
Member of Congress, 23d Dist., N.Y.
Washington, July 19, 1995

Package Deal

To the Editor:

"Legislators Against the Arts" (editorial, July 19) is misleading, inaccurate and a disservice to your readers. I voted against the Chabot amendment to strike the \$89.5 million in the Interior Appropriations bill for the National Endowment for the Humanities and against the Stearns amendment to cut \$10 million more from the \$99.5 million in the bill for the National Endowment for the Arts. Both amendments — the only ones considered affecting these agencies — were defeated.

The Interior Appropriations is an omnibus bill that provides Federal funding for dozens of Federal programs, including the entire Interior Department, the Forest Service and a good part of the Energy Department. To argue that members of Congress should vote to deny funding to huge segments of the Government and shut them down because they disagree with the funding levels for one or two agencies is irresponsible.

Since coming to Congress, I have consistently been a strong supporter of the arts. RICK LAZIO
Member of Congress, 2d Dist., N.Y.
Washington, July 19, 1995

A True Advocate

To the Editor:

"Legislators Against the Arts" (editorial, July 19) is right in stating the importance of the National Endowment for the Arts to citizens of New York as well as the rest of the nation. But you misstate the role of Representative Amo Houghton when you suggest his vote on final passage of the Interior Appropriations bill indicates opposition to continued Federal support for the arts agency.

We have been working with the Literary Network, a federation of literary and writers' organizations, through the Congressional session on saving the National Endowment for the Arts, and we can tell you Mr. Houghton continues to be, not simply a supporter of the arts endowment, but a leader in the fight to keep Federal support.

Mr. Houghton's office has been open to arts advocates. He has helped us by arguing the case for funding with his colleagues, arranging meetings with senior members of the Republican leadership and voting to support the endowment.

During consideration of the bill there were three crucial votes on endowment funding. Mr. Houghton broke with many of his colleagues by voting in each case to oppose further cuts. These are the votes that count — not the vote on final passage.

Mr. Houghton's role is based on his strong personal support for the endowment. He does not serve on the committees that authorize or fund the program. Nonetheless, he has chosen to act as a leader in his party on this issue. For his leadership role, he deserves thanks and praise, not censure. JOANNE WOODWARD
WENDY WASSERSTEIN
New York, July 19, 1995

French Intellectuals Wanted Truth Told

To the Editor:

In "French War Stories" (Op-Ed, July 19), Tony Judt goes so far in praising President Jacques Chirac for finally admitting French Government complicity in the deaths of 76,000 Jews during the Nazi occupation, and in attacking the French left, that he seriously distorts history.

He writes that the left has been "curiously silent" on French responsibility for the deportation of Jews, naming intellectuals such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Jean Lacouture and Jacques Derrida.

To be sure, former President Francois Mitterrand, leader of the Socialist Party, said in a notorious 1992 statement that only the Nazis and not the French state were responsible.

On June 13, 1992, a petition signed by more than 200 mainly leftist intellectuals, including Mr. Derrida, Régis Debray, Cornelius Castoriadis, Mr. Lacouture and Nathalie Sarraute, noted that the French occupation government in 1942 acted "on its own authority, and without being asked to do so by the German occupier."

It called on Mr. Mitterrand to "recognize and proclaim that the French state of Vichy was responsible for persecutions and crimes against the Jews of France."

Mr. Judt might have noted that Mr. Chirac and his Government have enacted some of the most draconian anti-immigrant legislation in French history. He might also have mentioned Mr. Chirac's failure, on the eve of this year's Presidential elec-

tions, to condemn strongly and specifically the neo-fascist, Holocaust-denying, anti-immigrant National Front for the murder of an Arab immigrant on May 1 during a National Front march in Paris. KEVIN ANDERSON
Associate Professor of Sociology
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Ill., July 20, 1995

The Children

To the Editor:

It was with great joy that I read your report on President Jacques Chirac's redeeming admission of official French culpability in the fate of thousands of Jews during World War II (news article, July 17).

I would like to add one emendation: Not all of the 13,000 people picked up in the Vél d'Hiv roundup were sent immediately to Drancy. Some 4,000 were children between 3 and 16, who were sent with their parents, more than 7,500 souls in all, to two small concentration camps at Pithiviers and Beaune-la-Rolande.

In one of the most horrible and shameful episodes of the occupation, the adults were sent to the Nazis first, leaving the children virtually alone for up to two months before being sent to extermination themselves.

This episode has been brilliantly and touchingly delineated by the French journalist Eric Conan in "Sans Oublier les Enfants" ("Not to Forget the Children"), published in 1991. WILLIAM KRAKAUER, M.D.
New York, July 18, 1995

New York City Need Not Have Lost Its Major Credit Rating

To the Editor:

Regarding Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's July 18 letter and Standard & Poor's downgrading of New York City's debt, I regret the inability of this Mayor to keep the city's one major investment grade rating. Like it or not, that rating represents the best indicator of the city's creditworthiness. (Fitch's rating is not considered "major" by investors.)

That the Dinkins administration did not suffer that downgrading was no accident. It was not a "political" gift from a hard-nosed organization with its own reputation to worry about. We worked tirelessly not to lose the Standard & Poor's rating on our watch because we were very aware of the resulting psychological and real damage: significant loss of market access.

We listened to Standard & Poor's; we offered it milestones of budget progress and unprecedented access to our numbers, including head count. We did so to finance this city's extensive public works efficiently and at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers.

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include writer's name, address and telephone number. We regret that we cannot acknowledge unpublished letters. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

Perhaps Mayor Giuliani could have addressed Standard & Poor's concerns better. For example, Standard & Poor's notes that "bond proceeds from the asset sale" of the water system "to the city's water authority" could result in their use "for operations." Despite strong urging from the City Comptroller, the Mayor has refused to say he would absolutely not use this money for operations.

Standard & Poor's also expresses strong concern over "optimistic projections of additional state and Federal aid or mandate relief."

Perhaps, like many of us, Standard & Poor's is still waiting for Mayor Giuliani to get Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato to deliver a Medicaid formula fair to New York from the Republican Congress.

Standard & Poor's notes that

"structural budget balance remains elusive." The solution is in the 1993 report to me by former Deputy Mayor Donald D. Kummerfeld. There would be a silver lining in this historic downgrade if Mayor Giuliani now were to read that report with the attention it deserves.

DAVID N. DINKINS
New York, July 19, 1995
The writer, Mayor of New York City from 1990 to 1993, is professor of public affairs at Columbia.

Dividing Palestine

To the Editor:

Morton A. Klein (letter, July 16) writes that the League of Nations defined Palestine as including the Kingdom of Jordan; hence Arabs already have three-fourths of Palestine. He omits that Palestinian Muslims and Christians made up 90 percent of the population in 1920, and that they should have been allowed, (as promised) self-determination.

Palestinians were again wronged in 1947, when the United Nations partition plan gave Jews, now one-third of the population, 56 percent of the land West of the Jordan River (no Jews lived on the East Bank, only Jordanian Bedouins), as well as in 1948-49, when Israel drove hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and increased its territory 50 percent. ROD PARROTT
Associate Dean
Disciples Seminary Foundation
Berkeley, Calif., July 17, 1995

Reviving the Rialto

Once upon a time, the intersection of Broadway and 42d Street on the island of Manhattan in the city of New York was the glittering "crossroads of the world" — Times Square, the exciting center of entertainment in America's grandest metropolis. The glitter turned into sleaze some years ago, when theaters that staged the likes of Ziegfeld Follies became XXX-rated movie houses. But the good old days appear to be coming back now, in fancy — and costly — modern dress.

Led by the Walt Disney Company with a generous helping of city and state subsidies, tentative plans for key elements of the sleaziest block in the neighborhood — the stretch of 42d between Seventh and Eighth Avenues — have now become firm. With the signing of three substantial deals this month, others seem more likely.

Disney is undertaking a \$34 million restoration of the 92-year-old New Amsterdam Theater, where it plans to produce musical spectacles that it hopes will be as successful as its hit "Beauty and the Beast." Talk about modern dress: Elton John and Tim Rice have already put together several songs for a possible Disney update of "Aida." Disney also plans a Disney store next door.

Down the street, the proprietors of Madame Tussaud's famous London waxworks are newly

JOHN 1/50

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Enter
Le
Bulldozer

Now this could get interesting. Jacques Chirac has only been President of France for two months, but in that brief span he has demonstrated that he is going to pose a very different challenge for Washington than his predecessors. Mr. Chirac has signaled that he won't be content playing the traditional French role of annoying the U.S., by ostentatiously asserting French independence but ultimately falling in line behind American leadership. No, no, Mr. Chirac is hunting bigger game. He aspires to supplant Washington as leader of the Western alliance, period, full stop, hand over the keys.

With the end of the cold war diminishing the importance of the U.S. security umbrella, and with the missing-in-action Clinton Administration leaving a yawning leadership vacuum on the world stage, who's to say Mr. Chirac won't succeed? As the French President pointedly pointed out two weeks ago: "I believe the Atlantic Alliance does not have a leader."

Hmmmm. Got any candidates, Jacques? Yes, this could get interesting. So who is this man who would be king? Mr. Chirac is not your typical French statesman. Unlike his aloof, cautious and calculating predecessor, François Mitterrand, Mr. Chirac is impulsive and impetuous — a gambler in his own way, whose instinct for snap decisions can border on the reckless. As one diplomat in Paris remarked to me: "Chirac is a bulldozer without a steering wheel, and when one of those is on the road everyone else should put on their seat belts."

Consider his first two months: He dominated the G-7 summit in Halifax, arm-twisting the other leaders to issue a muscular declaration on Bosnia. He ordered a resumption of

Will Chirac
swoop into a
power vacuum?

French nuclear testing in the Pacific, without consulting any of his European Union partners, and when they protested he snuffed that his decision was "irrevocable." Mr. Chirac startled his country by becoming the first President to acknowledge French responsibility for the deportation of thousands of Jews to Nazi death camps during Germany's occupation of France. And it was Mr. Chirac's sudden ultimatum to the allies — either reinforce the safe havens against further Serbian attacks or France pulls its troops out of Bosnia — that triggered a U.S. decision to threaten massive air strikes to deter the Serbs.

How far can Mr. Chirac lead? That depends on two factors. First, Mr. Chirac needs to be able to lead the European Union before he can lead the West. He needs the E.U. power base as a multiplier of French power and right now many E.U. members — particularly Britain and Germany — are wary of Mr. Chirac's impulsiveness, and uncertain whether there is any real strategic vision behind it. Second, France has 12.5 percent unemployment, and it is that number, not Bosnia, that the French public is obsessed with. It is worth recalling that Charles de Gaulle, France's last President to really challenge Washington's leadership, was brought down not by foreign policy but by the 1968 student-worker strike in the streets of Paris.

There is an opportunity here for the U.S. and a risk. At a time when Washington is tired of leading it has in France a President who wants to lead as much as de Gaulle, but is not, like de Gaulle, congenitally anti-American. Mr. Chirac speaks English and has warm feelings toward the U.S. from his summer working the soda fountain at Howard Johnson's. He is a rare breed: a Gaulist baseball fan. Who knows, maybe he could be to Bill Clinton what Margaret Thatcher was to Presidents Reagan and Bush — an assertive European leader who encourages U.S. leadership, while acting as Washington's full partner. The danger is that Mr. Chirac's impulsiveness will wear thin on Washington and his European allies and there will be total incoherence in the alliance — with Washington refusing to lead or be led.

Thirty-some years ago, John Kennedy and Charles de Gaulle also vied for primacy in the Western community, but that was a clash of two titans each with a very strong vision of his country's role in the world. For now, Bill Clinton and Jacques Chirac look like pale imitations. One hopes that they will find a way to live with each other's weaknesses, and still work together. If not, they could give living proof to Karl Marx's dictum that all great events and personalities in world history appear twice — "the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce."

By Andrew Sullivan

As an ideology, affirmative action in 1995 is beginning to resemble Soviet Communism in 1989. Outside the sheltered elites, the majority of people loathe it. The circumstances in which it was dreamed up no longer exist. It is clearly teetering, its legitimacy under mortal threat. The decision by the University of California's Board of Regents to abolish preferences in its admissions and hiring policies is the unmistakable sound of a wall coming down.

President Clinton doesn't understand this. There is no doubt that he is sincere in his defense of racial social engineering. His speech on Wednesday was moving and eloquent: one of those moments when conviction and this President seem to coincide. The performance called to mind why many of us backed his candidacy three years ago.

It seemed, back in 1992, that Mr. Clinton might address the real racial problems facing us. He talked directly about vestiges of public and private racism, but also about the problems of the disproportionately black underclass. He talked about the collapse of public education, the soaring levels of black-on-black crime and the meltdown of the black family. We hoped he could be a President minorities and majorities could equally trust.

This hope turned out to be hallucinatory. Since 1992, Mr. Clinton's tackling of the issues that affect minorities has been uniformly defensive of the status quo. His crime bill was a tepid response to the hellish world in which many minority children grow up. He took an astonishing two years to get around to his pledge

Andrew Sullivan, the editor of *The New Republic*, is author of a forthcoming book, *"Virtually Normal: An Argument About Homosexuality."*

Let Affirmative Action Die

to change welfare to workfare. By then Republicans in Congress had seized the issue, more eager to abolish welfare than to reform it.

It's hard, too, not to conclude something even more depressing. The President's heart now clearly belongs with those people who look at America and see groups rather than individuals and who see results rather than opportunities. His speech never seriously confronted a future in which America's racial makeup will be less black-and-white than a bewildering mixture of ethnic and cultural influences, a future in which the attempt to mediate and regulate every possible racial injustice will become a task even Ira Magaziner couldn't contemplate.

It's no accident that California, whose diverse, multiracial population most resembles the way America will look someday, is the first to tear down the divisive carapace of racial preferences. Californians recognize that fierce individual competition is far preferable to group deadlock.

Yet Mr. Clinton is blind to this change. He doesn't see affirmative action as a noxious but necessary detour to overcome the unique legacy of slavery and segregation. He sees it as the model for all of society for the indefinite future. His measure of whether affirmative action has worked is revealing: it's the percentage of various minorities in various sectors. If this isn't thinking by quotas, what is?

Affirmative action was not intended for this purpose and should not be measured by these results. It was originally meant to rectify for specific, historical discrimination against one group — African-Americans. And it was meant to be temporary.

Now, of course, preference programs are not measures of last resort; they are the rule. And Mr. Clinton is remarkably at ease with them. He parades his racially gerrymandered Administration with all the pride of a schoolteacher posing with his graduating class. His one proposal for reform — a Federal set-

aside program aimed at companies investing in poor areas — is in fact an extension of affirmative action, this time open to whites.

And why not? When your politics are the politics of group-think, why leave anyone out? Why not the ugly or the shy, the gay and the bi, the tall and the short? There is no logical stopping place in a politics that feels most comfortable when hammering the sharp, distinctive faces of individuals into the collective blur of the group.

This is why Mr. Clinton can only understand the opposition as a response of "white males." He doesn't seem to have noticed that there are other principles involved, such as those of fairness and liberty. Or that there are many members of minorities — and many women, besides — who find the assumptions of affirma-

Liberalism is
subverted by
racial engineering.

tive action demeaning. Nor does he see that there are many white men who are quite happy with this system, since they are often the dispensers of racial privilege. They can feel good — and still retain power, like the President himself.

Nor has it struck him that conflating the experiences of women and blacks, Latinos and Asians, homosexuals and Aleuts is both empirically false and psychologically crass. Above all, Mr. Clinton doesn't grasp the danger that affirmative action, with its principal impact among the middle classes, is a distraction from genuine racial ills.

He says, for example, that the low percentage of minorities in many fields "screams" that affirmative action needs to be retained. Well,

here's another statistic that screams. It's from last year's *Hopwood v. Texas* lawsuit, one of many cases that are unraveling affirmative action as fast as Mr. Clinton tries to shore it up.

The University of Texas Law School was sued because it had set up separate admissions standards for white and black students. In a mirror image of the 1950's, the differing standards were designed not to keep out qualified blacks but qualified whites. The reason? The lawsuit revealed that, looking at LSAT results in 1992, only 88 blacks in the country had scores higher than the median for white students at the highly selective law school.

On scores alone, the school would have admitted nine black applicants to its entering class of 500 students. Yet affirmative action called for proportionate results in admissions that approached black graduation rates from Texas colleges.

Is this huge discrepancy between black and white scores the result of "systemic racism" on the part of law schools? Or is it owing to the neglect of public education and collapse of family structures that disproportionately affect young black Americans? Surely the fundamental solution lies in tackling those deep problems rather than chasing impossible statistical goals.

Liberalism was once the creed that said you were equal before the law. Parentage, gender, race, religion: none of that mattered. The individual citizen was what counted. Now, in extending the power of government further and further, in regulating the precise percentages of racial and other minorities in a whole range of activities and places, liberalism has become the very force it was born to oppose.

If liberalism is to revive, it will only do so on the ashes of affirmative action. It will revive by articulating the principles that liberalism was founded on: equality before the law, equal treatment by the state, and freedom as the guiding principle of the society. It is a liberalism that provides a space for individuals to achieve the success that has to be won, not provided — fought for, not fought over.

The paradox is that if there was ever a time for this liberalism, it is now. It is the only creed that can recognize and repulse the ethnic, collective urges that are darkening the old world, and the only creed that can guide the dazzling racial and cultural complexity of the new. History's joke is that it has taken conservatives to rediscover it.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

The
Vicuna
Lacuna

WASHINGTON

Al D'Amato's impersonation of a statesman made my head hurt. And hanging on the words of Howell Heflin was not my idea of how to spend a steamy Friday afternoon.

But accountability of government is a pillar of our democracy. So I went to hearings all week, and watched Congressional panels on Whitewater, Waco and the Good Ol' Boys Roundup, the racist A.T.F. picnic.

The props were unforgettable. Grown men fought for the attention of cameras with a dead man's briefcase. Senators pored over the Roundup invitation, featuring a Redneck Chili Cook-Off judged by "former Rednecks of the Year."

Congressional hearings are useful, I suppose, although the country still seems pretty confused about what Ronald Reagan knew about Iran-contra, and what happened between Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas. Plus, this is not the Roman Senate. The oratory runs more to Senator Joe Biden vaporizing that the Good Ol' Boys Roundup hurt "the soul of this country" and "the soul of law enforcement" and "the heart and soul" of law enforcement.

Hey, let's
hold another
hearing!

But anyway, let's review what we've learned so far:

- David Koresh was a pervert.
- Janet Reno was so green on the job that she was rolled by the F.B.I. in Waco and by the White House in Whitewater.
- Bernard Nussbaum was such a gifted obstructionist that he could make even an innocent person look guilty.
- The Republicans have a weakness for conspiracy theories.
- The Clinton Administration would rather climb a tree to tell a lie than stand on the ground and tell the truth.
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms should be abolished before the Council of Economic Advisers.
- Good ol' boys are sometimes racists and heavy drinkers.
- The bottom of a briefcase is in the eye of the beholder.

You may feel you know all that already. But this is a Congress more intent on sound bites than civics. Senator Arlen Specter said he will convene a panel on the 1992 F.B.I. raid on the white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho. Senator Barbara Boxer, a Democrat, wants open hearings on Bob Packwood. That way, we could finally prove, beyond any shadow of a doubt, once and for all, absolutely, that Senator Packwood is not the master of his desires.

Neither was Senator Kennedy, says Senator Mitch McConnell. The Republican Ethics Committee chairman has threatened to hold hearings on Chapquiddick, the accident that occurred many years ago, before disco. Senator McConnell also would retaliate with a hearing on another Democrat, Senator Tom Daschle, on whether he improperly intervened to help an air-charter company owned by a friend.

Senator McConnell's threats of revenge hearings are preposterous and tasteless, and perfectly in keeping with the spirit of the 104th Congress.

Think about it. Why shouldn't the capital complete its descent into partisan madness and get around to all those scandals that got away? The nation's past is riddled with mysteries. Let the hearings commence.

We could start with that cherry tree. The anti-environmentalism of the Father of His Country is a disgrace. And we could find the smoking teapot of the Harding Administration. We like Ike, but isn't there a piece of unfinished business about Sherman Adams and that coat? What is vicuna, anyway? And where did it go?

Then Congress could try to get to the bottom of current troubling questions:

- Does Strom Thurmond know that his hair is the color of Tang?
- Why does Robert Byrd insist on holding up Senate business with all those references to Brutus and Tacitus? (Call him Tedious.)
- Did Jesse Jackson teach Bill Clinton to say "Mend it, but don't end it"?

Oh, and there's that new Senate resolution Senator Byrd got passed saying reporters should have to join legislators in disclosing the sources and amounts of their outside income. Can hearings be far behind? (Who will cover them?)

First, they'll ask Diane Sawyer questions about her sex life. Then they'll want to know why Larry King never asks follow-up questions. Next they'll try to figure out how bored David Brinkley really is. And then they'll come after me.

Enough. I'm losing perspective.

Welcome
To Virtue
Reality

By Jeff MacGregor

IMPORTANT! READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST:

Thank you for purchasing THE CHIPPER®, the interactive, fully programmable home entertainment lock-out device. You've just taken the first step toward getting sex and violence off TV and returning them to the American streets where they belong.

Made with pride in the U.S. of A., THE CHIPPER® was designed by a team of engineers, educators, politicians and lobbyists to satisfy new Federal communications regulations. Derived from recent NASA computer research in artificial intelligence, THE CHIPPER® employs advanced ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE™ microcircuits to achieve the user-friendly and wholesome environment of VIRTUE REALITY®.

To program THE CHIPPER®, simply press "P" and "V" and then enter the number code for the type of programming your family has chosen to lock out. Clap hands and you're done! For example, by entering "P" — "V" — "V1" and applauding yourself, you are electing to block reception of those programs containing noncontextual violence.

The makers of THE CHIPPER® recommend that a family discussion, supervised by a parent (if available), precede your inputs. Here is a quick reference listing the most commonly selected lock-outs by category (a complete menu appears on pages 4 through 578). All lock-outs were designed by the Rand Corporation's Center for the Quantification of the Bipartisan Humanities. Happy viewing!

Acts of Violence

V: detects and blocks all depictions of violence.

V1: blocks acts of noncontextual violence.

V2: blocks graphic acts of noncontextual violence.

V3: blocks graphic acts of gratuitous, noncontextual violence.

V9: blocks graphic acts of gratuitous, noncontextual violence unless they're really funny, like when a big guy falls down or takes a nine-iron hard to the cabeza on a family-hour home video anthology show.

A V-chip how-to
guide. (There
goes Gilligan.)

V38: blocks graphic acts of gratuitous, noncontextual violence except those committed by major television stars of your own political affiliation.

V43: blocks graphic acts of gratuitous, noncontextual violence except for the occasional slapfight between contentious pre-operative transsexuals on "Gerald," which might be kind of fun to watch, really, and it gives you the chance to talk to the kids about the importance of conflict resolution or something.

V827g: blocks the episode of "Gilligan's Island" where the Skipper gets mad at Gilligan for scuttling the Professor's bamboo hydrofoil and

whacks him with his hat.

V827s: blocks all works by Shakespeare where people get killed.

V827bb: blocks all episodes of "The Brady Bunch" where Mike scolds Carol for losing his blueprints.

Sexual Behavior

S: detects and locks out all depictions of sex.

S1: locks out all graphic, gratuitous depictions of sex.

S2: locks out all graphic, gratuitous, noncontextual depictions of sex (except the ones Dad orders on Pay Per View).

S3: locks out all beer commercials.

S4: locks out all car commercials.

S5: locks out all soap operas.

S6: locks out all talk shows.

S7: locks out Hugh Grant out of his car.

S245: locks out "Baywatch" when children are left unsupervised.

S246: locks out "Baywatch" when spouse is left unsupervised.

S389: locks out graphic depictions of gratuitous, noncontextual sex except for those in movies starring actors who may be important to the fund-raising effort of your favored Presidential candidate and/or the occasional slapfight between contentious pre-operative transsexuals on "Sally," which might be kind of fun

to watch, really, and it gives you a chance to talk to the kids about the importance of respecting alternative life styles or something.

S2321g: locks out Ginger on "Gilligan's Island"; allows Mary Ann.

S2321s: locks out all works by Shakespeare, because he's talking about sex, you just can't really tell.

S2321bb: locks out all episodes of "The Brady Bunch" where Carol does her nightie to apologize to Mike for losing his blueprints.

Children's Programming

B1: electronically limits Barney the Dinosaur to one verse of "I Love You" per broadcast.

B2: locks out Barney audio.

B3: locks out Barney completely. Onscreen message explains to children that, according to the House Ways and Means chairman, Barney has died in committee.

B4: locks out Barney Frank.

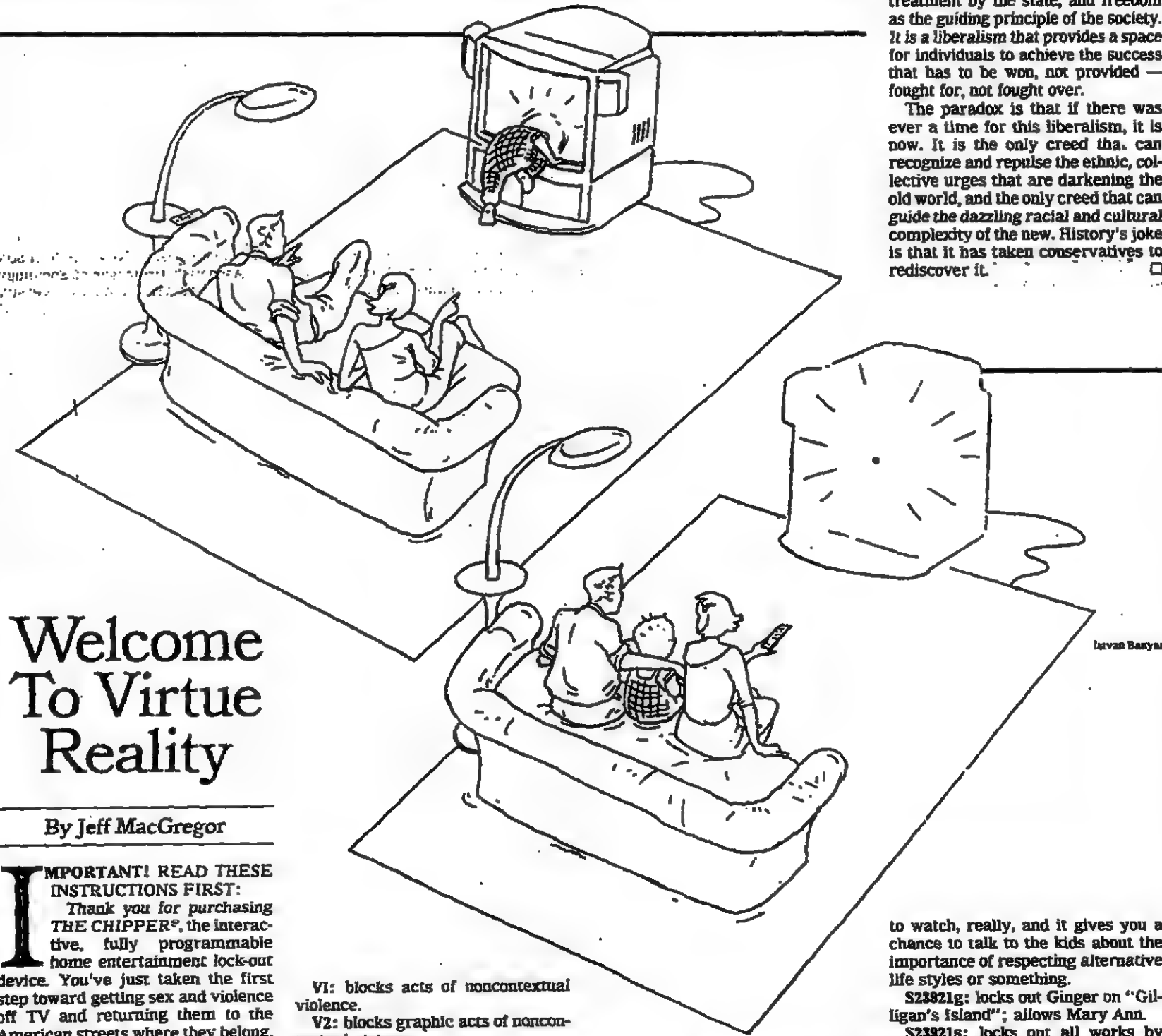
Drugs and Alcohol

D1: locks out all professional sporting events.

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Jeff MacGregor is a writer in Covansville, Pa.





Weaning a TV junkie

How much TV is too much TV? My four-year-old son would rather stay home and watch a video than go outside and play or even come to the pool with me. I'm afraid he's becoming addicted.

Efrat Tenenbaum, parenting group leader.

Children at the age of four still don't clearly differentiate between the real world and that of TV. Many things that they see on TV can become confused with events in the real world.

When the TV is on many hours, a child gets used to a certain amount of background noise. What's worse, he gets used to not responding.

When you watch a lot of television, it becomes easy to develop a kind of attention that doesn't obligate one to interact. And because of the pace and speed of things on TV, the child develops a greater need for constantly changing stimuli and can lose his attention span for things that are slower and quieter.

Too much TV may also harm children's ability to form pictures in their own imagination, as happens when we tell them a story and they alone have to "draw" the pictures. Lots of TV watching is not good for anyone, but it is especially inappropriate for young children.

It's worthwhile limiting it as much as possible. One way to limit TV is for the parents to decide on a number of programs the child can watch - I'd say maximum two or three a day (up to about an hour). The child can

PARENTING

RUTH MASON

choose the programs and the times, but it's better if he watches at different times of the day.

The best way to know if someone is addicted is to see what happens when he stops the behavior. If the reaction is very strong, it's important not to get mad but to stick to the limit and simply turn it off. Some television sets have a locking device. At the same time, you must offer the child alternative activities. But prepare yourself for a period of tears and scenes. Don't be afraid of this but know you are doing something for the ultimate good of the child.

It's very important for children this age to develop social relationships and social skills, and watching TV is a very passive and solitary activity. The child doesn't develop the capacity to amuse himself, and has less of a chance to practice being with peers.

Last night, when my husband and I finished making love, we noticed that our six-year-old son was asleep at the foot of our bed. He must have come in while we were making love and fallen asleep. We didn't hear a thing. Was he traumatized? Should we say anything to him?

Elanah Wernick, therapist at the Shiluv Institute for Family Therapy and the Sex Therapy and Counseling Clinic of Migav La-

dach Hospital, says:

Your son most probably saw you making love but he obviously felt comfortable enough to fall right back asleep.

Most of us have had the experience of waking our children (who have fallen asleep in front of the TV or in our beds) and getting them back to their rooms, speaking with them, giving them a kiss goodnight - and the next morning the kids don't remember a thing.

The issue here is not so much what he saw but how he understood it.

He needs to be asked: What woke him up and why did he come into your room? What did he see? How did he feel about it? On the basis of what he says, you can respond in kind. He needs to know that grown-ups who love one another express their feelings in different ways, including physical affection, like when mom and dad kiss or hug during the day.

When parents are alone in their room, being naked and touching each other is another way of showing love. "You too will do that when you're a grown-up."

To prevent this in the future, the door to your bedroom should be shut and locked when you're making love. The children should also be taught to respect your privacy and not bother you when the door to the bedroom is closed.

If you have a question about parenting, write to: Parenting, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Surrogate motherhood a Knesset matter

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before justices: Dov Levin, Elyahu Mazza and Zvi Tal, in the matter of: Michal and Shlomo Zabaro and others, petitioners, versus Dr. Ephraim Sneh, minister of health, and Prof. Mordechai Shani, Health Ministry director-general, respondents (HC 5087/94).

MICHAL and Shlomo Zabaro and a number of other childless couples wished to have children through surrogate motherhood.

However, regulation 11 of the Public Health Regulations (In-Vitro Fertilization) of 1987, issued by then-health minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino under section 33 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1940, forbids the implantation of an ovum in a woman who will not be the child's mother.

Moreover, regulation 13 provides that a donor's ovum shall not be transplanted unless it was fertilized by the recipient's husband.

LAW REPORT

ASHER FELIX LANDAU

Section 33 provides for regulations relating to the "opening, registration, management and supervision of hospitals and nursing homes."

The petitioners submitted, therefore, that the minister, in issuing the above regulations, had exceeded his powers under the Ordinance, and they requested that the court set them aside.

JUSTICE LEVIN delivered the judgment of the court. Counsel for the respondents, he said, agreed that the subject of surrogate motherhood should be governed by the Knesset in primary legislation, and not by regulations.

The state, therefore, consented to the regulations being set aside, but requested that such an order should only take effect after six months to enable the preparation of suitable legislation on

this sensitive, involved and difficult issue.

Petitioners' counsel had not disputed the court's power to postpone its order being implemented, but submitted that there was no adequate ground for so doing in the present case.

After full consideration, Justice Levin continued, the court was of opinion that it was undesirable to create an interim situation in which there were no legal provisions at all governing the issue now raised.

The court had decided, therefore, to enable the legislative process to proceed, while not leaving the petitioners in a state of doubt as to the present situation.

For the above reasons it ordered that regulations 11 and 13 be regarded as invalid as of January 1, 1996.

Amnon Ben-Dror and Yigal Meron appeared for the petitioners, and Osmat Mandel, senior assistant state attorney, appeared for the state.

The judgment was given on July 17, 1995.

Moshav Shores: After the fire

SHORESH means "root" in Hebrew and, true to the meaning, new shoots are already sprouting at the moshav of that name in the Jerusalem Corridor.

"Fire cleanses," said Rose Barr, a 30-year resident, "and I have to believe this is a new beginning."

The July 2 fire virtually destroyed the moshav's poultry and orchard industries, considerably damaged the Shores Hotel, and left more than half the moshav members homeless.

The buzz of power saws felling blackened trees now disturbs the once tranquil and picturesque hilltop community.

Clean-up crews, delivery trucks, well-wishers, curiosity seekers, friends and relatives have either been to or are coming to Shores.

Most of the homeless families are living temporarily at the Shores Hotel and will soon be moving into tiny mobile homes being set up all over the moshav. Some of the luckier families have moved into empty houses that were not burned out but need repairs.

The worst fire in the country's history left 24 homes on Moshav Shores destroyed, 12 damaged and a path of destruction that will take years, perhaps decades, to repair.

Established in 1948 by Hungarian and Romanian Holocaust survivors, the present-day Shores is home to 52 families from 22 countries and five continents.

Benny Armon, the moshav's manager, is a busy man these days, meeting with government officials, insurance representatives and builders, reassuring worried residents and attending his daughter's wedding a week after the fire. Armon appears calm and at ease.

"It's going to be very difficult for Shores financially," Armon said. "We've lost two main industries and we don't have the \$1 million needed to replace them. The insurance money will be used to rebuild houses and to repair damage to the hotel, and that's it. There just isn't any more money. Without any assistance from the government, I don't see how we're going to make it."

TWO EDUCATIONAL psychologists from the local Match Yehuda Council, Yehudit Afaim and Gail Priel, are working mainly with the four- to 16-year-old group.

Aid arrives by the truckload as well-wishers help a community to rebuild its life, writes Naomi Tavor, a resident of Shores

Afaim and Priel use several methods with the youngsters. "We draw, talk, sculpt and put on plays," Priel said.

"One child whose home was completely burned drew a picture of a tree burning next to his house, but the house was okay."

The children want to talk and talk about the fire, and we let them. We listen to the same story over and over and over, if that's what they need."

Accompanied by the psychologists, the children walked around Shores to see what happened to

their homes and the homes of their friends.

"Some of the parents were against this at first," Afaim said, "but we felt it was important for the children to see and understand what happened. It was also important that they do this with impartial adults."

"Their parents may cry or be very upset when seeing the homes. We wanted to explain to them in a calm way that the houses would be rebuilt, that they would have homes and live here again, and that it wasn't the end of the world."

"It also helped to solidify the children as a group and bring them closer together."

"We all planted trees together. We symbolically pushed away the ashes and planted the trees. Even the young children need to feel that they are helping to rebuild the moshav. Symbolism can be very powerful."

Hotel manager Rivka Ben-Yair, in charge of donations to the moshav, has received many letters offering help, and the phone keeps ringing.

"The whole country has opened their heart to us. Organizations, companies, individuals call and ask, 'How can we help?' I know more or less what the families have already received, so I try to steer them in the right direction. What we need now are some refrigerators."

Contributions have been large and small, sometimes arriving by the truckload. Everything is carefully recorded in Ben-Yair's notebook.

Perhaps the greatest support has come from within the moshav, neighbor helping neighbor. Most have been working extra hours or volunteering services. On the first Friday after the fire, the entire moshav, for the first time ever, shared the Shabbat meal.

The Shores Hotel is virtually the only remaining industry left for the moshav.

Struck by fire at the height of its busiest season, the staff pulled themselves together quickly and got back on the job. One week after the fire, it was business as usual.

"Many clients with booked weddings at Shores have called me specifically to say that they are not canceling and want to show their support," said Shuli Peleg, in charge of weddings and special events.



Children plant saplings where ashes covered the ground. The fire left over half the moshav members homeless. (Alon Tavor)

How to help Shores grow

Donations for the rebuilding of Shores may be made directly by deposit to Bank Hapoalim Branch 690, account number 686007. For information call the moshav's Rivka Ben-Yair at 02-338228.

Readers may also contribute to the welfare of both Shores and Neveh Ilan - through The Jerusalem Post Funds' Emergency Appeal. For details, please see the advertisement in tomorrow's paper.

Japan's beloved ibis a species of one

THEY once lived in vast colonies throughout Japan. But now only one Japanese crested ibis remains alive, alone on an island preserve.

The highly publicized near-extinction of the snowy-feathered, long-beaked ibis has focused attention on the country's scores of other endangered species - and has prompted some soul-searching about the destruction of nature that has accompanied Japan's economic growth.

The ibis, with its graceful walk and its 1.8-meter wing span, has been depicted for centuries in Japanese scroll paintings and on sliding screens. Older Japanese recall how the gentle birds would approach children playing in parks.

"No one imagined that the ibis could become extinct," says Ryuichi Yokoyama, a director of the Nature Conservation Society of Japan. "But now that we've realized it, it's too late."

Japan's Environment Agency says 119 other species of birds are threatened in Japan, including 27 on the verge of extinction. In addition, 217 species of animals are threatened, it says.

Extensive land development and pollution of rivers are largely to blame, nature conservationists say. The ibis needs marshes to survive, but chemicals and detergents have polluted much of Japan's marshland.

Even migrating birds are finding it difficult to find unpopulated

areas to spend the winter.

Gan, or wild geese that migrate to Japan from Siberia, once wintered in large areas of Japan, but now 90 percent of the 20,000 who come each year are forced to congregate in one marsh in Izumuma, 354 km. northeast of Tokyo.

Conservationists warn that Japan must stop neglecting wildlife in its push ahead with economic development projects.

"We must pursue a way of living in symbiotic relationships with wildlife and prosper together," says Tsumao Watanabe, assistant director of the wildlife preservation division at the Environment Agency.

Conservationists say they're pleased that some communities have begun taking action as a result of the plight of the crested ibis.

The city of Morioka in northern Japan recently decided to buy 80 hectares of privately owned forest land where a pair of golden eagles have nested since 1974.

"We wanted to act before it was too late," said Takuo Osaki, a Morioka official. Only about 300 golden eagles are believed to exist in Japan.

"The fate of the crested ibis has helped raise Japanese awareness of the need to protect wildlife," says Ryo Tachikawa, professor of environmental policy at Ehime University. "But the changes are likely to come very slowly."

(Associated Press)

A dangerous domino effect

EARTHLY CONCERNS

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THE US chemical weapons stockpile is in immediate danger of exploding, according to a report issued by the US General Accounting Office in Washington.

The 400,000 M55 rockets - stored in Kentucky, Arkansas, Utah and Oregon, and on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific - are so decrepit that a spontaneous explosion is a real and present danger, the report said.

GAO experts fear the highly corrosive nerve gas sarin, which the 35-year-old rockets contain, may have eaten through parts of them and become mixed with chemicals in the rocket fuel.

Such a mixture is potentially so dangerous it might explode spontaneously, according to Tom Massis, one of the investigators from the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.

One such explosion could then set off a chain reaction, releasing a large toxic cloud. "Army tests have shown that the ignition of a single M55 rocket within a storage igloo could involve many, if not all, of the 4,000 rockets stored together at most sites."

The US is obliged to dispose of all these rockets under the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the US Army has plans to de-

stroy them by the year 2004. In the meantime, however, leaks of rocket fuel have been found in 1,157 rockets.

The army insists, however, that there is no "significant threat" of M55 rockets exploding.

Massis insists that the army's optimism is misplaced, and warns that the danger is real and immediate. He said the military has done such a poor job of monitoring the rockets that no one can be sure they are safe.

He says the rocket propellant samples were collected 10 years ago from only one site.

However, the army says it is initiating tests to check if the sarin could make the propellant unstable.

The GAO wants the army to manually disarm the rockets, separating the propellant container from the nerve-gas capsule.

The army insists it has no way of safely piercing the explosive layer surrounding the sarin container to drain it off.

But Craig Williams of the Kentucky Environmental Foundation says this can be done, but the army wants to hold on to the rockets and the threat they pose to ensure that funds for a vast destruction project will not be canceled by officials in charge of an ever tightening budget.

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TANADV

YOUR WEEK JUST GOT EVEN

THE JERUSALEM POST

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

MONDAY, JULY 24, 1995

Bank Tefahot to raise rates

TEFAHOT Israel Mortgage Bank, a subsidiary of United Mizrahi Bank, yesterday announced plans to raise rates on mortgages by a average of 0.5 percent on Thursday, due to the status of the capital market.

The rise in rates is in line with Bank Hapoalim's Mishkan Bank's decision to raise rates by a similar percentage last week. The other banks are expected to follow suit in the near future.

Tefahot said the rate increase is unavoidable based on the interest the bank is required to pay on money it raises.

"Since the yield on government

bonds has reached a very high rate of 4.5%, the bank is forced to pay a much higher rate for its financial resources and as a result, the interest on mortgages goes up," a company statement said.

Tefahot's economists said they do not predict a lowering of the interest rate in the short term but in the long run, rates may go down, assuming the banks find alternative sources for raising capital.

Following the rise, Tefahot's mortgage rates will vary from 5.6%-6.25%, depending on the length of

the loan. The mortgage rate on Tefahot's five-year loan will be 5.6%, while interest on long-term loans of 25 years will be 6.25%.

Tefahot said customers with government assistance rights (*teudat zaka'at*) will be entitled to a mortgage at a lower interest of 5% on five-year loans and 6% on 25-year loans.

The higher interest rates will be charged on mortgages approved from this Thursday. Customers that recently submitted mortgage requests to the bank will be entitled to

the lower rate over a two-year period.

In light of the uncertainty prevailing in the market and forecasts of a lowering of the unlinked shekel interest and a rise in linked interest, Tefahot is offering customers two programs.

According to the programs, customers have an option to pay a variable interest rate in the short run and a fixed rate in the long run. The bank is offering customers either a loan at the prime rate plus an initial interest of zero percent or a loan at a variable linked interest rate which changes each year.

Leumi cancels fees on account data request

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi announced it is canceling commission fees on customers' first four account statement requests each month.

The exemption, which begins next month, will be granted to customers using automatic teller machines.

The bank will charge a NIS 1.1 commission fee on the fifth request and NIS 1.20 on each additional request.

Bank Leumi's decision to cancel the commission comes on the heels of other banks. Bank Discount and United Mizrahi Bank do not charge customers for the first six requests each month while Bank Hapoalim takes no commission on the first five requests.

For additional requests, banks charge between NIS 1.20-NIS 2.40.

Moshav residents protest debt repayments

DAVID RUDGE

RESIDENTS of Moshav Safsufa barricaded themselves in their Upper Galilee settlement yesterday to protest what they described as extortionate debt repayments.

The residents of the moshav also tried to block part of the northern road outside the entrance to the settlement.

Yossi Elmaliah, chairman of Safsufa's management committee, said the moshav was a "confrontation line" settlements because of its proximity to Lebanon.

He charged that families on the moshav, which is home to nearly 600 people, had been "misled" into joining the scheme to pay off outstanding debts totalling around NIS 20 million.

According to Elmaliah, they were promised that all families would be able to afford to meet the monthly payments, which would be between NIS 50 and NIS 100 a month.

"Instead, people are being told to pay between NIS 700 to over NIS 1,000 a month. One family, whose head of the household is over 70 years old and who lost a son in the Yom Kippur war, has to make repayments of NIS 1,200 a month," Elmaliah said.

Court issues injunction against BAD Computers

RACHEL NEIMAN

NETWORK software leader Novell scored a victory yesterday in the battle to protect intellectual property as the Tel Aviv District Court issued a temporary injunction against BAD Computers for preventing the sale of counterfeit software.

In addition, local tax authorities upheld Novell's appeal preventing the import of counterfeit software.

On July 17, during a search of BAD's Rehovot offices in the presence of Novell representatives from the UK, pirated versions of Novell's NetWare product were discovered in commercial quantities. The products had been purchased from the US's Keep It Simple (KIS) Technology, against which Novell is preparing a lawsuit.

After the search, BAD proved to Novell's satisfaction that it was unaware the software was copied, and immediately stopped purchasing

from KIS Technology. In a separate move, Novell issued a warning against a number of local resellers who have been selling NetWare Upgrade packages instead of the original product. The upgrade is not licensed unless the customer owned an earlier version of the product.

Comet reports \$233,000 losses

COMET Software International reported a loss of \$233,845 last year, compared with a profit of \$765,721 in 1993.

Revenues fell 5.1 percent to \$4,486,787, from \$4,730,057. The company said revenues from some contracts were deferred to 1995, while their costs were incurred last year. The firm also incurred higher research, selling, and administrative costs. (Bloomberg)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Central bank to announce August monetary policy: The Bank of Israel will announce today its monetary program for August. The Treasury and the business sector are pressuring the central bank to lower unlinked shekel interest rates, now at 13.5%, following last month's moderate consumer price index rise of 0.3%. By contrast, the central bank published last week monetary indicators which showed the money supply, M1, jumping by 2.7% in June, signaling that the economy is still overheated. As a result, most observers expect the central bank will not reduce rates by more than 0.5 percentage points, if at all. *Jose Rosenfeld*

Institute for International Finance group arrives: A delegation from the Washington-based Institute for International Finance, whose membership includes most of the world's important banks, arrived yesterday on a fact-finding mission. The delegation will meet with Bank of Israel and Treasury officials, as well as with bankers, in preparation of a report on the local economy. Central bank officials said yesterday the report will have a great impact on the country's international financial rating and on the chances for greater foreign investments. *Jose Rosenfeld*

MK Gideon Saguy (Labor) will submit a private member's bill to move Tel Aviv's Sde Dov Airport to an offshore site next to the current site. He noted the present location not only is an obstacle to the area's development, but also is a potentially valuable asset should the airport be moved. Therefore, he said, the entire project could pay for itself. *Haim Shapiro*

Paz-Chen links pact with Indian watchmaker: Jewellery manufacturer Paz-Chen has signed a distribution agreement with India's largest watchmaker Titan, which has an annual turnover of \$7 million. *Rachel Neiman*

Oshap subsidiary Manof has completed a \$500,000 computerized project for the UK-based travel service bureau Thomas Cook. *Rachel Neiman*

Point of Sale (POS) has won a contract to supply hardware and software products to Super Kozert, a Hungarian chain of supermarkets owned by Super-Sol.

The project is estimated at more than \$1m and includes installation of a central stock management system and computerization of the chain's 24 individual branches. The chain has 120 sale points.

According to the agreement, POS will install the first system this September, while another seven systems will be installed by the end of the year. The entire project is expected to be completed in the first half of next year. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

First International Bank has raised the interest rate on its ten-year, index-linked saving plans. The bank is offering 4.75% per year on savings of more than NIS 300,000, and 4.6% on savings of NIS 100,000-NIS 300,000. The higher rates will be available only for a limited period. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

'More money needed for industrial firms' R&D work'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

INDUSTRIAL firms will be forced to postpone research and development projects estimated at NIS 1.5 billion unless the budget is increased, the Manufacturers Association warned yesterday.

Yoram Belizovsky, director-general of the association, said the Chief Scientist's research and development budget of NIS 912 million for this year will be used up over the next two weeks. As a result, 300 industrial firms will not be able to go ahead with their research plans, causing significant harm to industry, future exports and the firms' ability to compete on world markets. Belizovsky appealed to the Finance Ministry and Industry and Trade Ministry to immediately increase the R&D budget.

He said the government has expressed interest in increasing the budget to NIS 1.35 billion nothing has been done.

The association said industrial firms' investment in research has increased in the first five months of the year.

According to the association, companies total requests for government assistance reached \$580m. In the reported period, up 12 percent compared with the corresponding period last year.

Gal may wait on credit policy bill until Frenkel ends term

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) has said he would be willing to defer implementation of a bill changing the way the Bank of Israel sets its credit policy until after governor Jacob Frenkel has finished his term.

This would avoid any appearance that the bill, submitted last week, was personally directed against Frenkel, Gal said.

However, it would not change any of the substantive reasons for the central bank's opposition to the bill, which was co-sponsored by the head of the opposition in the Finance Committee, Dan Tichon (Likud).

The bill would set up a supervisory committee whose approval would be required for any change in the

central bank's credit policy. The committee would consist of the governor, one other central bank representative, one representative of employers' organizations, one representative of the banks, and three professors - two economics department chairmen and one head of a business administration program. The professors would be appointed by the cabinet.

The Bank of Israel charges that the proposal would undermine the central bank's independence on monetary issues, and as a result, the country's international credit rating.

The bill would create a guaranteed majority on the committee for a loose money policy, since this is an interest shared by the government, the banks, and the business sector.

Accent stock off to great US start

Post Business Staff

TRADING of Accent Software, the Jerusalem-based multilingual software firm also known as Kivun Computers, got off to a roaring start on Wall Street Friday, as company shares ended their first day's trading at a 69% premium to the offering price.

The company sold 1.63 million shares through Whale Securities at \$6.50 a share and \$15,000 warrants at \$0.10 a share. By the close the shares had surged to \$11, on a 1.328m. share volume, while the warrants rose to \$4.

The success of the Accent offering offers hope to local firms planning to list their shares in the US. Accent is the first purely local firm

to stage an IPO in the US for nearly a year. Other companies, like Opal and AGA Associates, which have gone public recently, are US companies with local subsidiaries. The next local company planning to hold an IPO is Nur Technologies, the high-tech outdoor sign printing company.

Accent's main products are Dagesh, the first Hebrew-English word processor for Windows, and Accent, a multilingual word processor which lets users work in over 35 languages. The firm has grown from 10 employees in 1992 to nearly 100 today. It is due to report second-quarter results in the next few weeks.

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German mark	2.8234	2.9705	2.87	2.8250
Pound sterling	2.1098	2.1427	2.07	2.1150
French franc	4.6989	4.7361	4.58	4.6982
Japanese yen (100)	0.0067	0.0103	0.50	0.0119
Dutch florin	3.3039	3.3572	3.24	3.3524
Swiss franc	1.8225	1.9124	1.84	1.8977
Swedish krona	2.5030	2.5714	2.48	2.5119
Norwegian krona	0.4095	0.4181	0.40	0.4122
Danish krona	0.4742	0.4819	0.48	0.4788
Finnish mark	0.5417	0.5505	0.54	0.5455
Canadian dollar	0.6919	0.7031	0.68	0.6978
Australian dollar	2.1427	2.1773	2.10	2.1841
S. African rand	0.0204	0.0214	0.22	0.0211
Belgian franc (10)	1.6245	1.6411	0.72	1.6282
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9988	0.0472	1.00	1.0392
Italian lire (100)	1.8223	1.8590	1.78	1.8388
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.08	4.2748
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.50	0.5288
Irish punt	3.9022	3.9882	—	3.9598
Spanish peseta (100)	4.8058	4.8822	4.72	4.8476
	2.4485	2.4880	2.40	2.4700
* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

SPORTS

Daly takes Open in playoff

ST. ANDREWS (AP) - American John Daly beat Italian Costantino Rocca in a 4-hole playoff yesterday to win the British Open in a dramatic finish that added even more mystique to the home of golf.

Daly, astonished to see Rocca slot home a 75-foot putt to tie the tournament after 72 holes, clinched the title easily in the playoff, going to the fourth hole five strokes ahead and slotting in a 12-inch putt to win by four.

Rocca bogeyed the first playoff hole and needed three strokes to get out of the Road Hole bunker at the 17th, which was used as the third. Daly sank a 40-foot putt to birdie the second.

The two players went into a playoff after Rocca, needing a birdie to force a tie, amazed the crowd by holing a putt from the green-side swale known as the Valley of Sin. That gave him a 1-over final round of 73 and a 6-under total of 282 while Daly's final round was 71.

It was the third American success in a row in this year's majors after Ben Crenshaw's triumph in the Masters and Corey Pavin's US Open victory.

Daly, who squandered a 3-stroke lead with three to play, looked stunned as he watched the Italian's tying putt on TV from behind the clubhouse. Rocca



JOY STOMPER - John Daly reacts after sinking his putt on the 14th hole. (AP)

dived face down to the ground in celebration and astonishment.

After the playoff it was the American who was celebrating.

At the first playoff hole, Rocca 3-putted to fall one behind and then Daly holed a 40-footer for a birdie at the second to go two ahead.

The two went to the 17th, considered the toughest hole in major golf.

Rocca, needing something big to tie up the match again, went for the green but landed his second in the Road Hole bunker, inches from the front wall. Unlike Daly, who got out in one during the fourth round, Rocca needed three attempts and the playoff was virtually over.

Rocca birdied the 18th, the fourth hole, but Daly played safe and scored a par four to clinch victory and the Claret Jug.

Behind Daly and Rocca came three players on a 5-under total of 283.

They were Englishman Steve Bottomley, who was a qualifier, American Mark Brooks and Michael Campbell of New Zealand.

Campbell, in his rookie season on the European Tour, led the field by two going into the final round but scored a 3-over 76. Bottomley carded a 69 and Brooks a 71.

Indurain wins 5th straight Tour

LIMOGES (AP) - Miguel Indurain won the Tour de France for a record fifth consecutive time yesterday, finishing the 20th and final stage with a lead of 4 minutes, 35 seconds over his nearest rival.

The Spaniard finished in the pack on the Champs Elysees on a bright sunny day that emphasized the yellow jersey he has worn since July 9, when he won the 8th stage individual time trial.

Belgian Eddy Merckx, Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault have also won five Tours but Indurain was the first who did it in consecutive years.

Alex Zülle of Switzerland was third, Bjarne Riis of Denmark was third, more than six minutes behind.

Yesterday's stage was a largely ceremonial ride from St. Genevieve des Bois to Paris, 155 kilometers to end on the Champs Elysees.

Djamolidine Abdoujaparov of Uzbekistan won the final stage usually reserved for sprinters in the final eight laps up and down the Boulevard.

Indurain's Banesto teammates led him onto the Champs the first time to the cheers of the crowd estimated at about 500,000 people with numerous Spanish fans and flags in view.

Then Indurain stayed mostly in the back of the pack for the final



TOP TRIO - Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain is flanked by runner-up Alex Zülle of Switzerland and Bjarne Riis of Denmark who finished third. (Reuters)

ride. Usually he was in the front, watching over things but he preferred to stay out of the way of the mad sprint to the finish yesterday in sharp contrast to the rest of the 23 days.

Indurain showed he was in con-

trol all the way on the clockwise loop of approximately 3,635km. He demonstrated that in four consecutive stages on the second weekend when he took the first individual time trial and was second in three different types of

stages that put the distance between him and his major rivals. In the mountains he would let his teammates pace him then took over in the final climb to minimize the margins and put gaps on his major rivals.

Muster slated to play in Eisenberg Israel Open

HEATHER CHAIT

THOMAS Muster, who has won six ATP titles this year, including the French and Monte Carlo Opens, has confirmed his participation in this year's Eisenberg Israel Open.

Muster, ranked No. 4 in the world behind Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Boris Becker, will be the highest ranked player ever to compete in the \$275,000 event.

The entry list for the tournament, to be held during the Succot week from October 9-15, will be made final six weeks before the start, but Italy's Andrei Gaudenzi and Spaniard Javier Sanchez have already signed up.

The \$1 million Seiko Open in Japan is scheduled for the same week as the Eisenberg Open and since Muster is among the top 10 players in the world, he was obliged to compete in the higher prize money tournament. However, Muster requested permission from the ATP to return to Israel for his fourth visit.

"Having won some big tournaments this year, I hope finally to add the Israeli championships to this list," Muster said.

Spain clinches Fed Cup final spot

SANTANDER, Spain (AP) - Conchita Martinez thrashed Sabine Hack without losing a game yesterday, scoring the clinching point in Spain's 3-2 Federation Cup victory over Germany that sent the two-time defending champion to the final.

Hack, who upset second-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on Saturday in the opening singles, appeared sapped of energy and ideas. Martinez, ranked third and who won her opening singles match Saturday against Anke Huber, played nearly flawless tennis in scoring a 6-0, 6-0 victory that won the best-of-five tie.

Sanchez Vicario got Spain off to a good start yesterday, beating Huber 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 to give her team a 2-1 lead.

Germany earned some consolation in the doubles. Huber and Claudia Porwick defeated Maria Antonia Sanchez and Virginia Ruano 6-2, 6-2 for the final point, but couldn't stop Spain from advancing to its fifth straight Fed Cup final, where it will face either the US or France.

In the earlier semifinal, on Saturday, Lindsay Davenport recovered from a blown lead to take a 7-6(7-0), 7-5 victory over Julie Halard, helping the second-seeded US split the opening singles with fourth-seeded France in Wilmington, North Carolina.

The result set up a best-of-3 showdown scheduled for late last night. In the opening match, France's Mary Pierce cashed in on a series of missed opportunities by Mary Jo Fernandez to take a 7-6(7-1), 6-3 victory.

Also on Saturday, top-seeded Andre Agassi had his toughest match of the tournament, holding off Todd Martin 6-4, 7-6(7-5) in the semifinals of the \$675,000 Legg Mason Tennis Classic.

Agassi, who has yet to win a tournament since moving up to No. 1 in the computer rankings 14 weeks ago, was scheduled to meet second-seeded Stefan Edberg in yesterday's final.

Edberg, the defending champion, defeated Aussie Patrick Rafter 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 in the semifinals.

Uruguay wins Copa America

SCOREBOARD

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL - SATURDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Colorado 5, Mets 4
Houston 7, San Francisco 6
Atlanta 3, Padres 2
Cincinnati 4, Chicago 3
Pittsburgh 7, Montreal 1
St. Louis 5, Philadelphia 3 (13)
Florida 11, Los Angeles 2

SATURDAY'S AL RESULTS:

California 13, Detroit 3
Kansas City 5, Baltimore 3
Chicago 4, Milwaukee 2
Cleveland 6, Oakland 4
New York 7, Texas 4
Seattle 7, Toronto 2
Minnesota 3, Boston 7

CRICKET - Middlesex was 215-7 at the close on the second day of its three-day match against West Indies yesterday. Scores: West Indies 456; Middlesex 215-7. ATELETICS - Portugal's Fernando Ribeiro set a world record in the women's 5,000 meters Saturday, edging the 14-year-old star of Norwegian legend Kjetil Andre Aamodt by almost a second in 14:30.4 minutes, 36.45 seconds.

Ribeiro set the new mark at the small Athletics Night in Hechtel, Belgium, beating South African Elana Meyer.

Edwards, set the old mark of 14:32.3 on August 5, 1986.

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